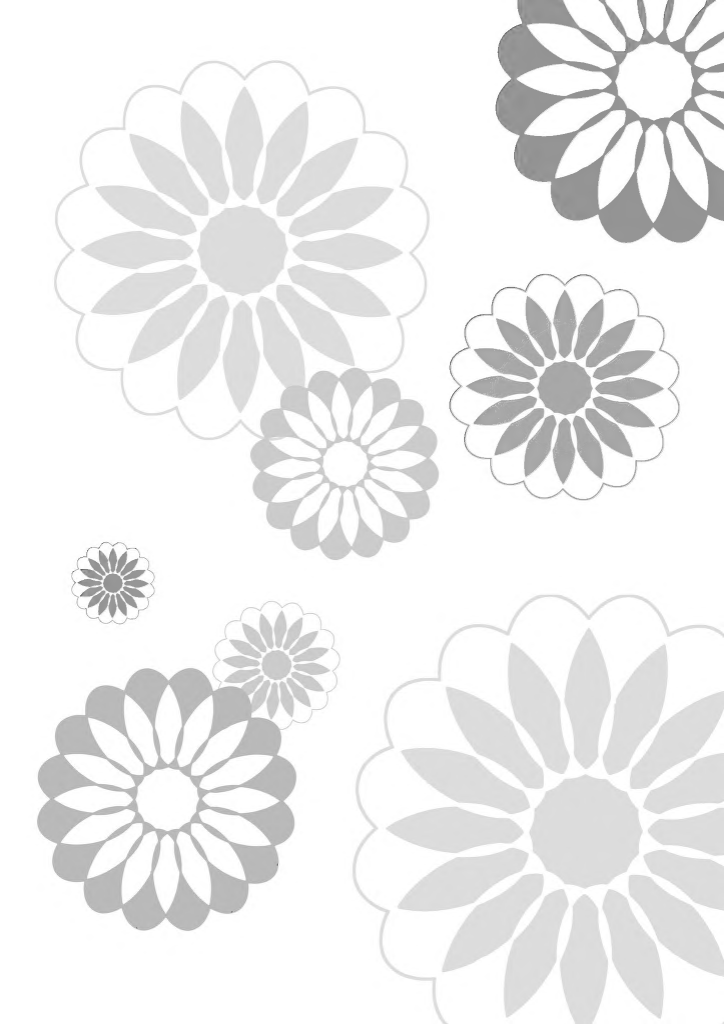
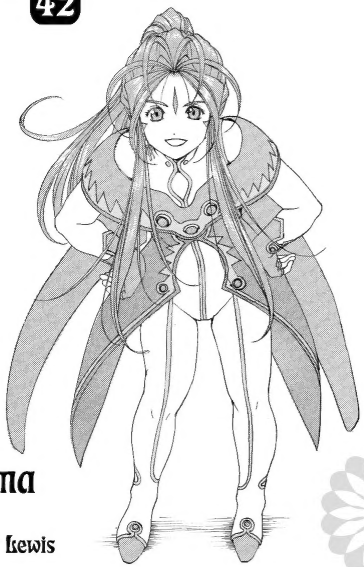
藤島康介
KOSUKE FUJISHIMA
42
ああっ女神さまっ
Oh My Goddess!



Oh My Goddess!

ああっ女神さまっ 42



STORY AND ART BY
Kosuke Fujishima

TRANSLATION BY
Dana Lewis AND Christopher Lewis

LETTERING AND TOUCHUP BY
Susie Lee AND Betty Dong
WITH Tom2K

DARK HORSE MANGA™

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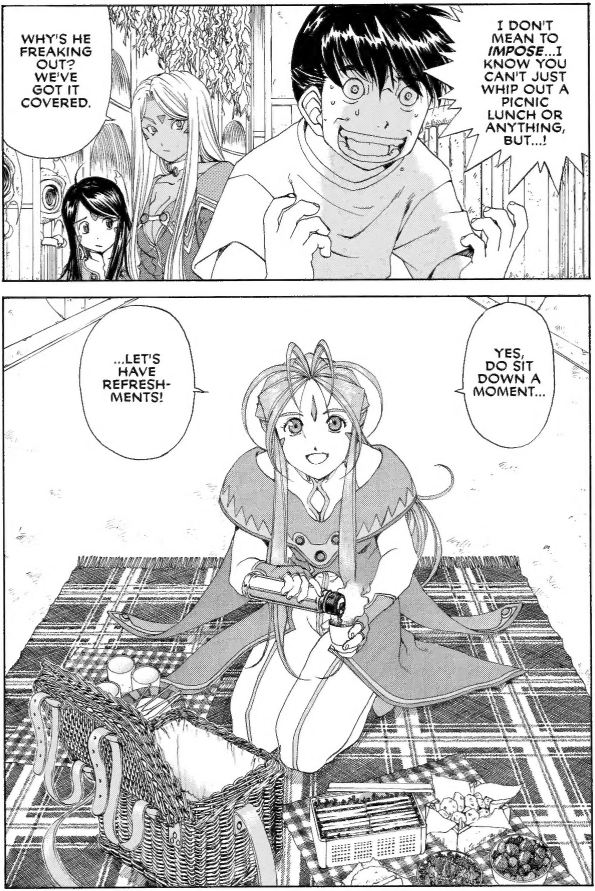
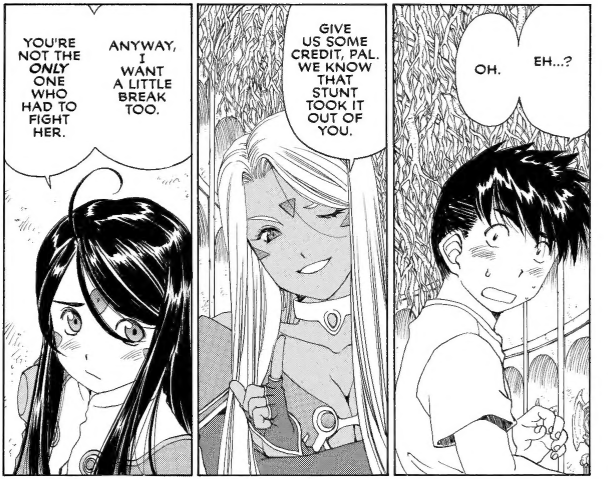
CHAPTER 262

State of Emergency?!

ATTEN-
TION,
EVERY-
ONE...
...WE
HAVE
AN
EMER-
GENCY.

...HUNGRY.
I'M, UMM...
THE SIDE EFFECTS FROM THE ACCELERATION WEREN'T JUST *PAIN* IN MY MUSCLES...
NO, WAIT. REALLY.
IN THE ***WORDS*** OF THE FAMOUS GLICO CARAMEL CANDY COMMERCIAL-- I NEED ***ONE CUBE*** TO GO ANOTHER ***300 METERS!!!***
...THEY'RE ALSO ***COMPLETELY DEPLETED OF GLYCOGEN!***


I DON'T MEAN TO *IMPOSE*...I KNOW YOU CAN'T JUST WHIP OUT A PICNIC LUNCH OR ANYTHING, BUT...!
WHY'S HE FREAKING OUT? WE'VE GOT IT COVERED.
YES, DO SIT DOWN A MOMENT...
...LET'S HAVE REFRESH-MENTS!


EH...?
OH.
GIVE US SOME CREDIT, PAL. WE KNOW THAT STUNT TOOK IT OUT OF YOU.
ANYWAY, I WANT A LITTLE BREAK TOO.
YOU'RE NOT THE *ONLY* ONE WHO HAD TO FIGHT HER.

IT'S IMPORTANT TO REST WHEN YOU CAN!

...YEP!
...YOUR TEA ALWAYS CALMS ME DOWN, BELLDANDY.
ahhh...

...KEIICHI.
I LOVE THESE MOMENTS WITH YOU, TOO...
A-AND, SAY, THESE COOKIES ARE *GREAT!!*
...YEAH!
AH...?
...THIS ONE'S YUMMY, TOO.

OH...
...I ...
...SEE.
I JUST WANT KEIICHI TO APPRECIATE HOW GOOD THESE ARE!
IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK!
HMM. YOU'RE BEING AWFULLY KIND...
WHY DON'T YOU JUST SAY YOU WANT TO THANK HIM...?
DON'T WORRY. I WON'T TELL SENTARO-KUN.
WHAT DOES SENTARO-KUN...
...HAVE TO DO WITH THIS?!

I GOT A LITTLE SOME-THING FOR YOU TO TASTE...!
UM...
...A SCREW-DRIVER?
HUH?
HM.
NO...
NO...
...

...DARN IT, I THINK THEY'RE ALL GONE.
OH, YOUR BOMBS? ALL GONE, HUH?
THAT'S *TERRIBLE!* WHAT A PITY...
KEIICHI!! GIMME THAT TEA!!

HERE!!
glupp glupp
...?
UM...
Plop
OKAY, NOW IF YOU COULD EXPLAIN WHAT THIS...
Ssshh

AGHHH! HOT! HOT!!
INCEN-DIARY WEAPONS?! THAT'S BARBARIC!!
HUH. NOT A WEAPON, JUST CHEMIS-TRY.
SOME OF THE OXYGEN ABSORBERS THEY PUT WITH PASTRIES...
...USE METAL POWDER INSIDE.
ALL I NEEDED TO DO WAS ADD WATER...
...AND IT SPED UP THE OXIDATION, GENERATING HEAT...
WOW...

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!
...SCARY.

...WHY GIVE ANYTHING TO A PERSON WHO'S GOING TO DO AWFUL THINGS TO US...?!
I MEAN...

'CAUSE SHE GAVE ME ONE.
...AND WHY ARE YOU EATING MY SISTER'S COOKIES?!

SHE LOOKED LIKE SHE WANTED ONE.
WHY'D YOU GIVE IT TO HER?!

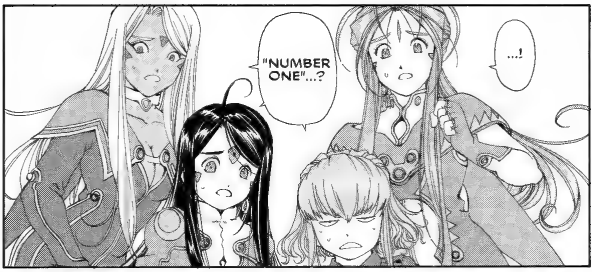
...SHE HASN'T *DONE* IT YET, YES?
"GOING TO" MEANS...
...SO THERE'S A POSSIBILITY SHE *WON'T* DO IT.
WELL, YEAH... BUT...

IT'S NOT A *POSSIBILITY*. I'M *DEFINITELY* GOING TO DO AWFUL THINGS TO YOU.
WELL, IF YOU'RE STUPID, THEN LET ME EXPLAIN.
SO I HOPE YOU DON'T REGRET THAT GESTURE.

OH, I SHAN'T.
WHAT ?!
I WATCHED HOW YOU ATE THE COOKIE...
...AS IF YOU REALLY ENJOYED IT.
THE JOY OF THAT MOMENT WILL REMAIN PRECIOUS TO ME.

...YOUR NEXT OPPONENT WILL BE *NO PICNIC.*
BUT LET ME TELL YOU THIS...
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT. YOUR COOKIES ARE DELICIOUS, I ADMIT.
...!!
...YOUR PATHETIC ENCHANT-MENTS WON'T EVEN TOUCH HER...
YOU FACE A SPECIALIST IN *ANTI-SPELL WARFARE*...
WHAT IS IT, MORTAL ...?!
...
YEAH, WHAT?
CAN I ASK SOME-THING?

...AND IT'S NUMBER ONE... NO... DEFCON ONE.
WE HAVE ANOTHER EMER-GENCY...


"NUMBER ONE"...?
...!

BWONNGG
GENTLEMEN
...SO I MAKE NO GUARAN-TEES.
JUST SO YOU KNOW-- I'VE NEVER USED MY POWERS THIS WAY...
SHI'NNG
SHI NGG

I THINK IT'S WORSE NOW.
LIKE *THIS!*
JENT-LMEN
REALLY? HOW'S IT SPELLED?
HA! YOU *SPELLED* IT WRONG!
gasp!
GENTLMEN
KYAAA!!
UM... YEAH.
WELL, OF COURSE IT'S FROM HELL.
...FROM *HELL ...!*
TH-THAT'S A TOILET...

JUST DO YOUR BUSINESS, AND...
IT'S NOT LIKE IT'S GONNA GET UP AND CHASE YOU...
OH, WAS THAT NOT PART OF THE DESIGN?!
...IT'S CHASING US!!!

NO! THIS CAN'T BE THE END! PLEASE! NOT LIKE THIS!!
WE'RE TRAPPED !!
BAMM!!

FWOOM
KERPOWWW!!

...YOUR CREATIONS HAVE NO SENSE OF BEAUTY.
SHHNNK
HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU...
STRANGERS... DO *YOU* HAVE A SENSE OF BEAUTY?

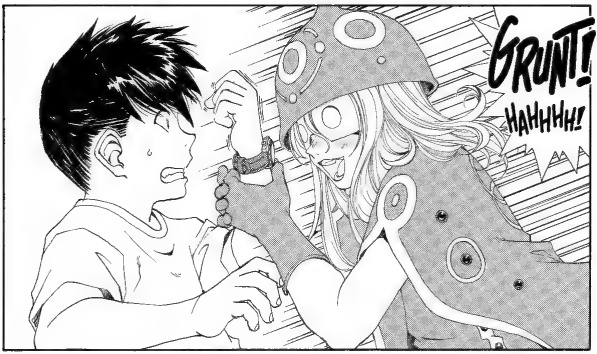
...SO SPEAKS THE *PUPPETEER... MOKKURKALFI.*
IF *NOT,* I BID YOU *BEGONE...*

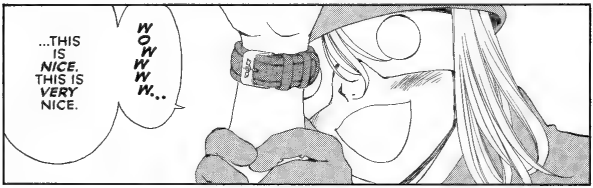
CHAPTER 263

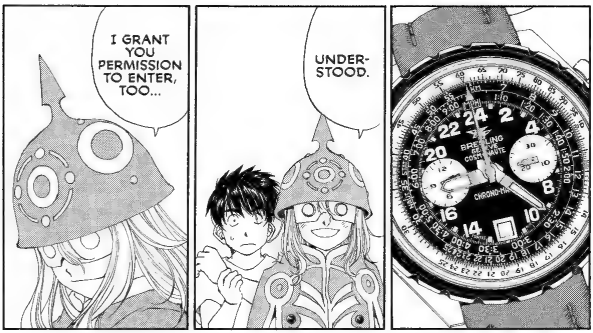
Sense of Beauty

NOT ONE AMONG YOU LEAVES, EH...?
...OH-HO!
UM... WHO IS THIS?
SOME-BODY WITH A WACKO SENSE OF BEAUTY. I'M OUT OF HERE.
...YOU MUST ALL HAVE A REFINED AESTHETIC...
WELL, INDEED ...!

EVERY-ONE, LET'S FIRST TIDY UP THE MESS FROM--
AND YOU SHOULD BE OKAY.
I GUESS YOU'LL DO, TOO.
YOU "GUESS" ...?
..YOU'RE GOOD.
HMMM...
YOU'RE UNQUALI-FIED TO EVEN VOICE AN OPINION--
BUT I *KNOW* I'VE GOT A SENSE OF BEAUTY!!
HEY! EVEN I DON'T THINK I'M SOME KIND OF *HUNK!!*
...
!!
YOU'RE *HOPE-LESS.*

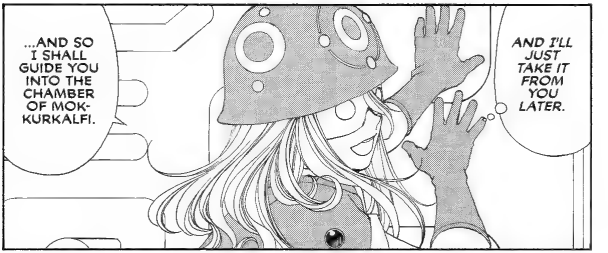

GRUNT!
HAHHHH!


...THIS IS NICE. THIS IS VERY NICE.
WOWWW...


I GRANT YOU PERMISSION TO ENTER, TOO...
UNDER-STOOD.

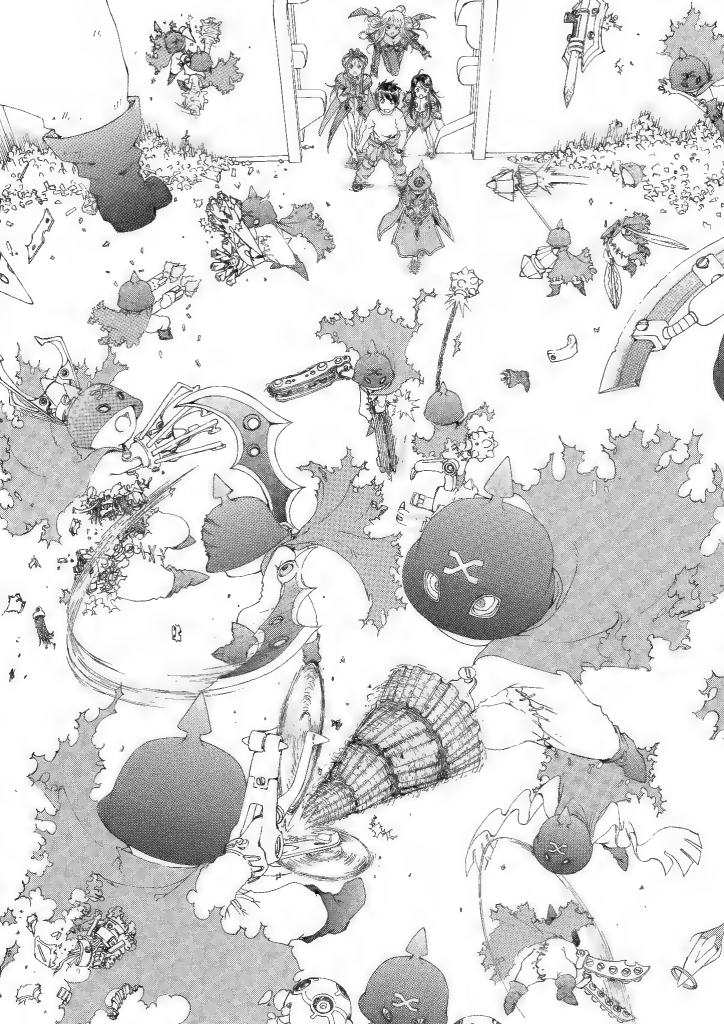
THIS IS MY WATCH, BUT IT'S NOT JUST MINE TO GIVE...
OUT OF THE QUESTION.
...IF YOU GIVE ME THAT.
A GIFT GIVEN WITH FEELING...
...BELONGS TO THE GIVER, TOO.

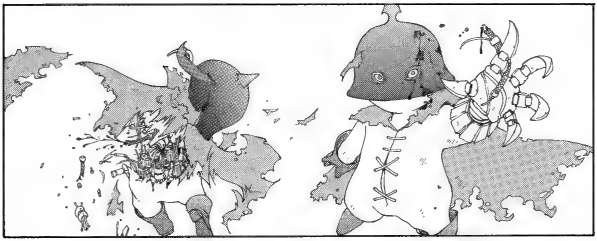
KEIICHI...
...ALL THE MORE SO WHEN IT COMES FROM YOUR BELOVED BELLDANDY?
YES, EXACTLY...
...HEY! WHAT ARE YOU--
HMPH! WELL, SO BE IT.
MOK-KURKALFI IS MAGNANI-MOUS...

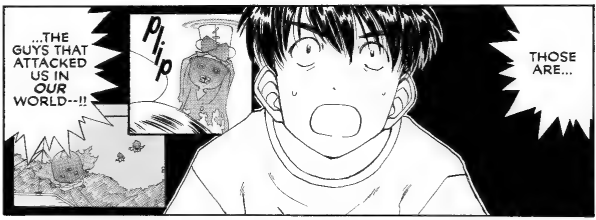

...AND SO I SHALL GUIDE YOU INTO THE CHAMBER OF MOK-KURKALFI.
AND I'LL JUST TAKE IT FROM YOU LATER.

WELCOME!

WHRRRRR
AH...!
AH...
KRASHH



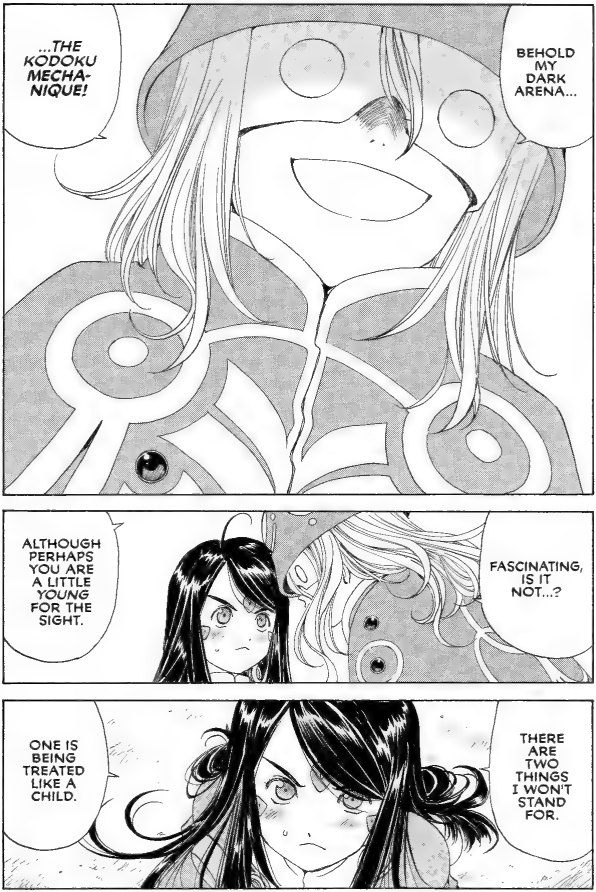



...THE GUYS THAT ATTACKED US IN OUR WORLD--!!
PLIP
THOSE ARE...

WHY...
QUITE A SPECTACLE, DON'T YOU AGREE?
THESE ARE MY FAMILIARS.
YOU MADE THEM ...?

...WHY WOULD YOU *DO* SOMETHING LIKE THIS?
...*FIGHT* EACH OTHER?
I MEAN... WHY ARE YOU MAKING YOUR MACHINE FAMIL-IARS...
WHAT-EVER DO YOU MEAN...?
..."SOME-THING LIKE THIS"?

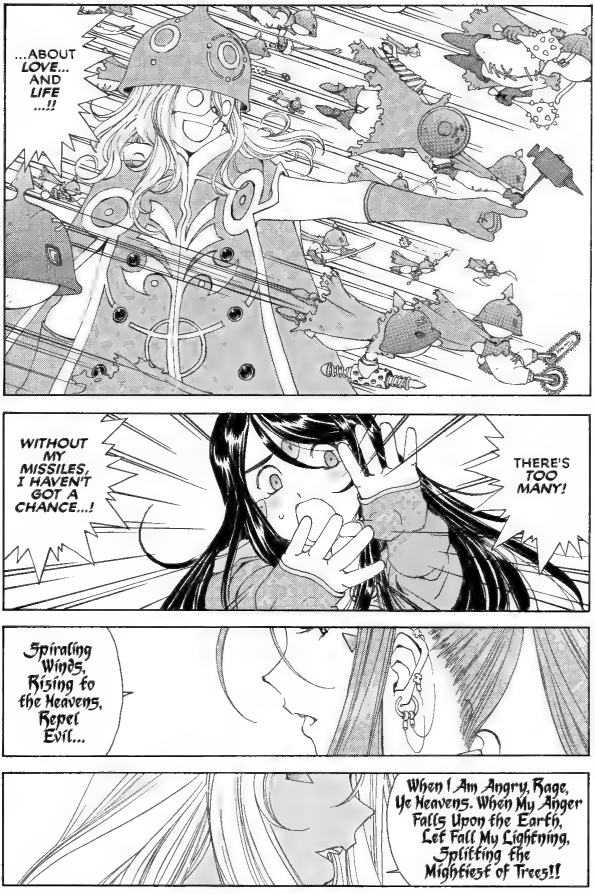
...THEY WOULD SET VENOMOUS CREATURES AGAINST EACH OTHER.
...IT IS SAID THAT IN ORDER TO MAKE THE STRONGEST POISON...
SERPENTS DEVOURING SCORPIONS... CENTIPEDES CONSUMING SPIDERS...
AND ITS POISON HAD THE STRENGTH OF *ALL THE OTHERS.*
...UNTIL ONLY *ONE* REMAINED.
...OF *KODOKU* ...?
HAVE YOU NOT HEARD TELL OF THE ANCIENT PRACTICE ON EARTH...


...THE KODOKU MECHA-NIQUE!
BEHOLD MY DARK ARENA...
ALTHOUGH PERHAPS YOU ARE A LITTLE YOUNG FOR THE SIGHT.
FASCINATING, IS IT NOT...?
ONE IS BEING TREATED LIKE A CHILD.
THERE ARE TWO THINGS I WON'T STAND FOR.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
LOVE FOR MY MA-CHINES?
..THE OTHER IS HAVING NO *LOVE* FOR YOUR MACHINES!!

DO YOU SEE ANYTHING WRONG WITH THAT...?
...THOSE WHICH ARE USELESS I *DISPOSE* OF.
I DON'T NEED USELESS TOOLS...
TOOLS ARE MEANT TO BE *USEFUL*.
MACHINES ARE *TOOLS*.
MACHINES MAY NOT BE *LIFE FORMS*... BUT THEY'RE STILL *ALIVE!!*
I DO!!

SORRY, STILL DON'T GET YOU.
LET ME RELIEVE YOU OF THESE *ILLUSIONS*...
THEY MERELY FUNCTION AS PRO-GRAMMED...
MACHINES ***HAVE*** NO LIFE.
...FAITHFUL TO YOUR COM-MANDS.
THAT IS WHAT A ***MACHINE*** IS.


...ABOUT LOVE... AND LIFE ...!!
WITHOUT MY MISSILES, I HAVEN'T GOT A CHANCE...!
THERE'S TOO MANY!
Spiraling Winds, Rising to the Heavens, Repel Evil...
When I Am Angry, Rage, Ye Heavens. When My Anger Falls Upon the Earth, Let Fall My Lightning, Splitting the Mightiest of Trees!!

LIGHTNING SUMMONS!

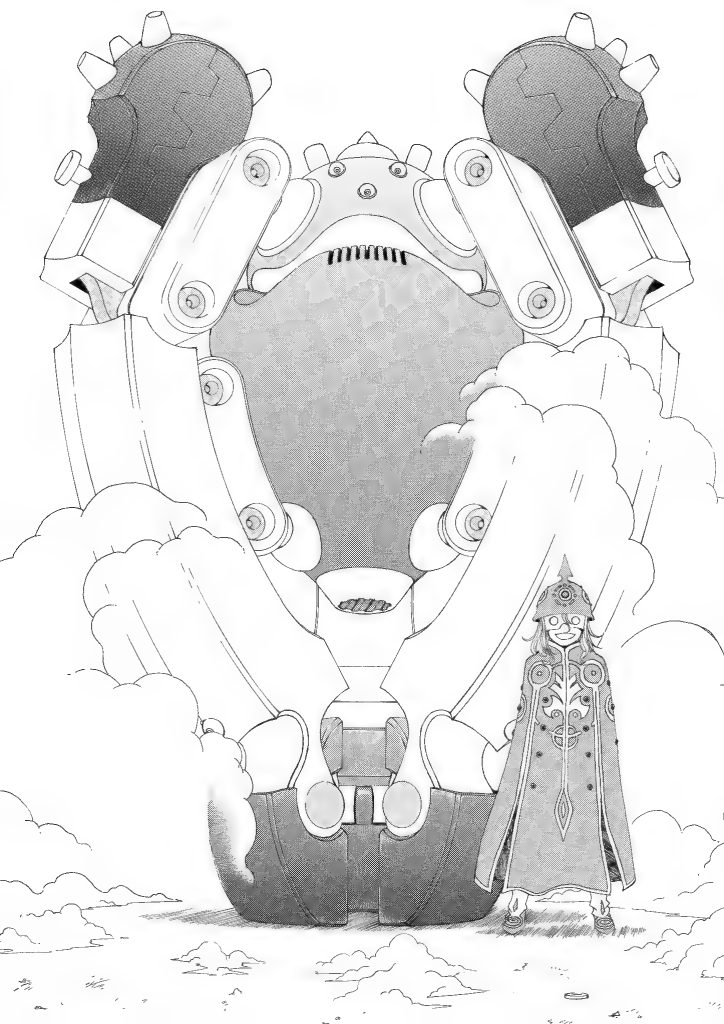
Rising Dragon Whirl-wind!!

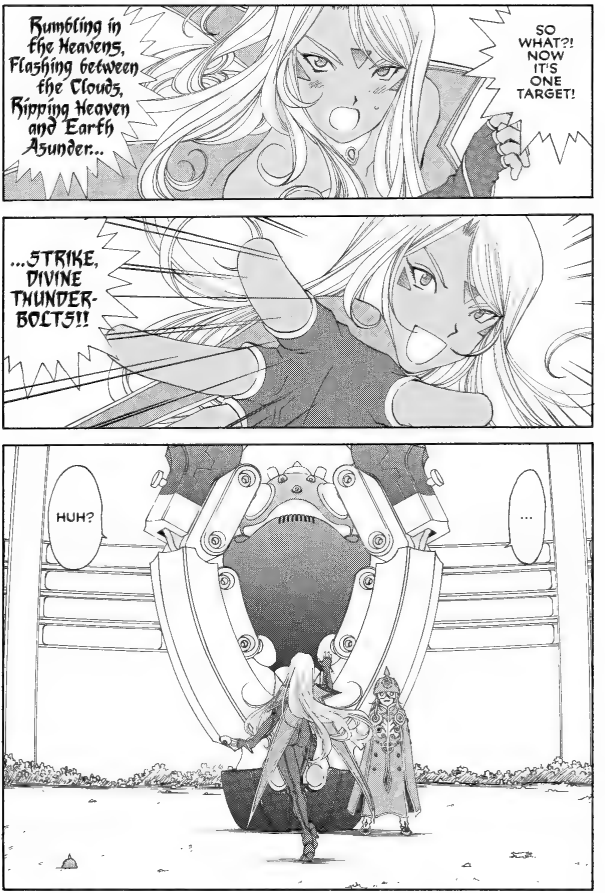
...OF HOW MACHINES CAN HARBOR LIFE...
AND YOU... YOU KNOW NOTHING...
DON'T SWEAT IT, SKULD... I KNOW YOU'RE OUT OF BOMBS.
POP POP POP

HUH?
EH?
I HAVE NO NEED TO KNOW THESE THINGS...
I, MOKKURKALFI, HEREBY DECLARE...
...EVERY-THING I NEEDED TO KNOW.
FOR I'VE ALREADY LEARNED...
...OR HOW AWESOME THE MAN IS WHO STANDS BEFORE YOU.

...YOUR SPELLS IN MY PRESENCE AGAIN!
...YOU SHALL NEVER BE ABLE TO USE...
COM...
...BINE?
COMBINE PROGRAM... START!!

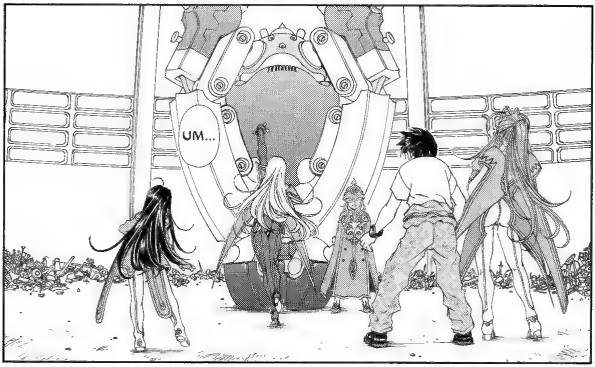
WHAMM
WHAMM
WHAMM
WHAMM
RRRRMMM
SHHINNGG

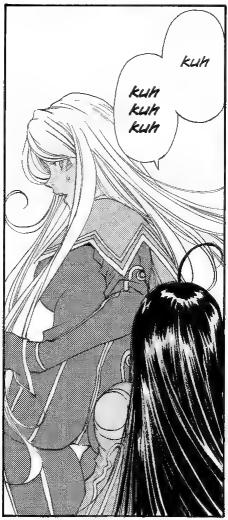



Rumbling in the Heavens, Flashing between the Clouds, Ripping Heaven and Earth Asunder...
SO WHAT?! NOW IT'S ONE TARGET!
...STRIKE, DIVINE THUNDER-BOLTS!!
HUH?
...

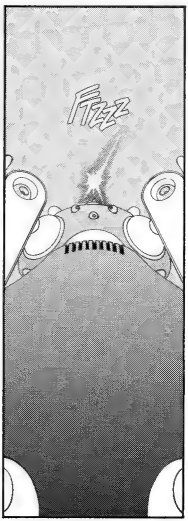
CHAPTER 264

Spell Canceling

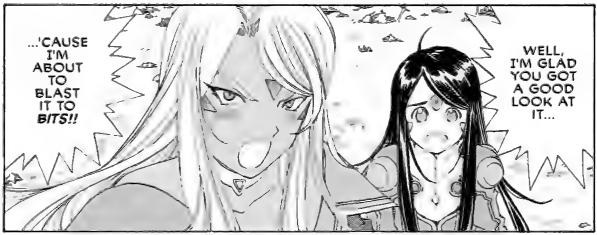

UM...


kuh
kuh
kuh
kuh

WHY
...?

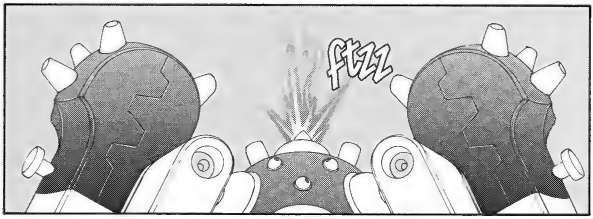

FIZZ

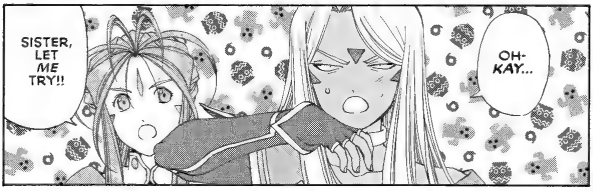
...KEWL !!!
kuh! kuh! K-K-K...
I DID NOT MESS UP!!
STOP SNICKERING!
SO COOL! LOOK AT THOSE BEAUTIFUL CURVES... THOSE REFINED JOINTS...
THERE'S SOMETHING MISSING.
AND YET...
...HMM.

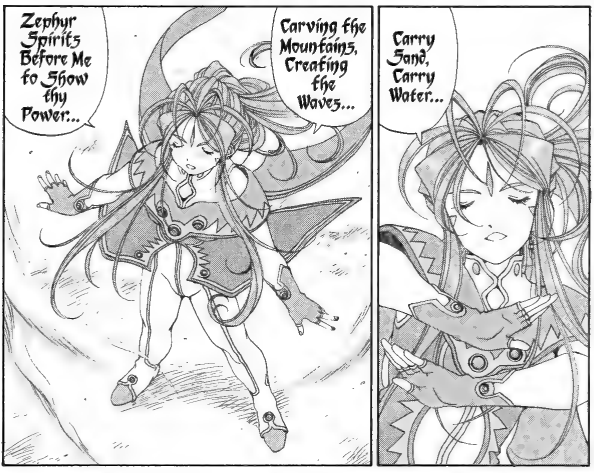

...'CAUSE I'M ABOUT TO BLAST IT TO BITS!!
WELL, I'M GLAD YOU GOT A GOOD LOOK AT IT...

Burn the Earth, Burn the Heavens... BURN THIS FOE!!
Split the Atmosphere With Thine Flash...
Breath of Thor, the God Commanding Ye...
Come Forth, Spirits of Thunder...

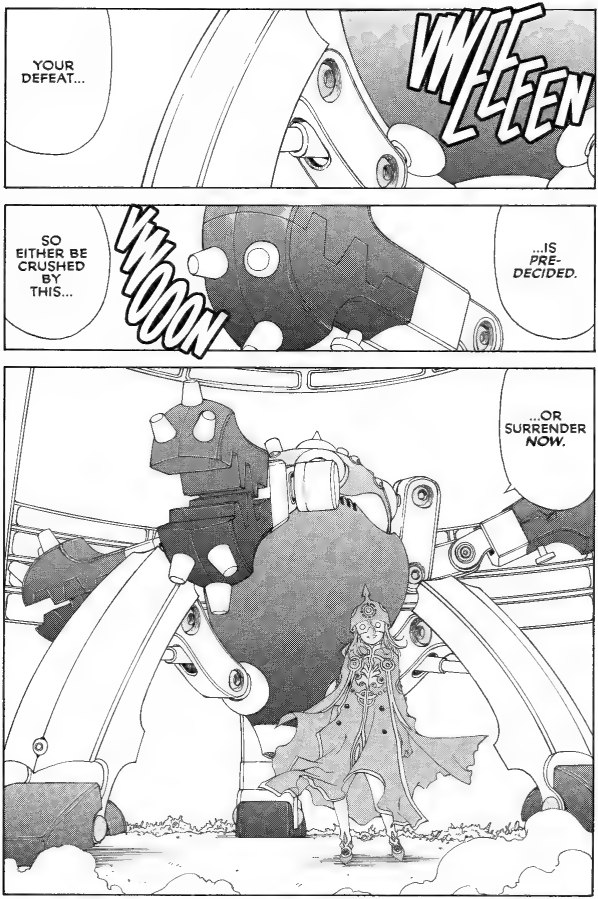
THUNDER LIGHTNING STRIKE!!


fizz


SISTER, LET ME TRY!!
OH-KAY...


Zephyr Spirits Before Me to Show thy Power...
Carving the Mountains, Creating the Waves...
Carry Sand, Carry Water...

fwsssshh
...Wild Vacuum Dance!!
TRY AND TRY AGAIN... IT'S ALL FUTILE.
I ABHOR FUTILITY.
PERFECT EFFICIENCY IS PERFECT BEAUTY.

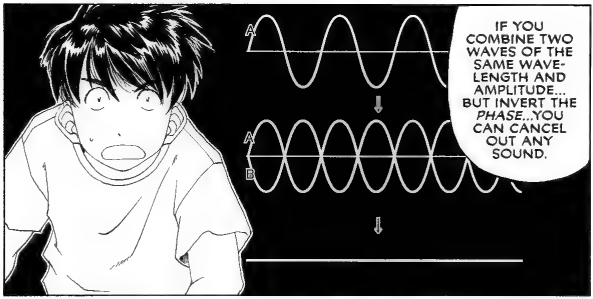

YOUR DEFEAT...
VWEEEEEEN
SO EITHER BE CRUSHED BY THIS...
VWOOON
...IS *PRE-DECIDED.*
...OR SURRENDER *NOW.*

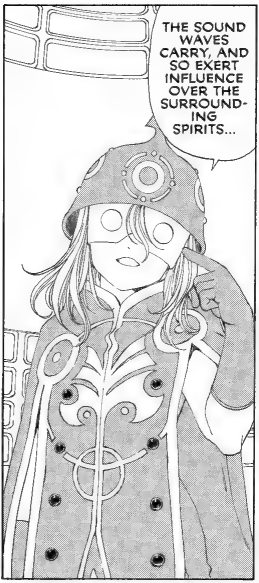
PRE-DECIDED? YOU DON'T KNOW UNTIL YOU TRY--
THAT'S RIDICU-LOUS!
GYA A A!!
KANG
--I MEAN...

...IT SEEMS THE MOST EFFICIENT SOLUTION IN *ACCORD* WITH MY SENSE OF BEAUTY IS...
AND NOW THAT YOU'VE REJECTED MY RECOMMENDATION...
ALL I SEEK IS THE MOST EFFICIENT RESOLUTION.
I WASN'T ESPECIALLY *HOPING* FOR SURRENDER.
UM...I THOUGHT WE WERE STILL DEBATING *OPTIONS!*
...TO *MULCH* YOU.
WHOOSH

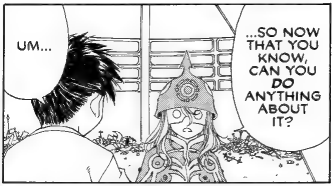
KEIICHI !!
BELLDANDY, TRY TO SET UP A BARRIER!! I'LL TRY A SPELL TO SLOW IT DOWN.
YES!! IF WE CHANT DIFFERENT SPELLS SIMULTA-NEOUSLY...
Surround and Shroud, Become a Shield...
...OR SPELLS THAT AREN'T DIRECT ATTACKS... MAYBE WE CAN GET AROUND THE RESTRIC-TION!
Change Thine Steps, Oh Time...

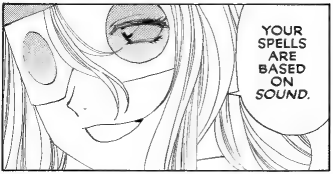
EH?!
I SEE THEIR LIPS MOVING... BUT THERE'S NO SOUND!
YOUR CHANTS ARE BEING ERASED!!
...!!
I DIDN'T ATTEND A TECH INSTITUTE FOR NOTHING.
YOU'RE NOT SO IGNO-RANT, I SEE.
HMF! YOU NOTICED?
...IN-VERTED PHASE WAVES?


A
A
B
IF YOU COMBINE TWO WAVES OF THE SAME WAVE-LENGTH AND AMPLITUDE... BUT INVERT THE *PHASE*...YOU CAN CANCEL OUT ANY SOUND.


THE SOUND WAVES CARRY, AND SO EXERT INFLUENCE OVER THE SURROUND-ING SPIRITS...

clap
clap
OH! WELL DONE, *WELL* DONE.


UM...
...SO NOW THAT YOU KNOW, CAN YOU *DO* ANYTHING ABOUT IT?

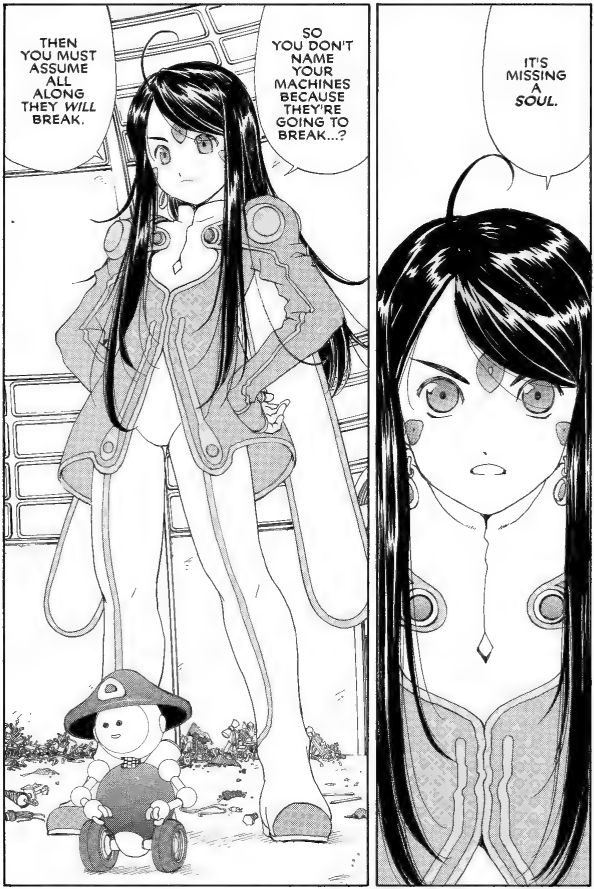

YOUR SPELLS ARE BASED ON *SOUND.*

WELL, I GUESS IT'S JUST ONE OF THOSE THINGS.
...BUT WHAT IF THE SPIRITS NEVER *HEAR* THEM...?
IF WE CAN'T USE SPELLS, IT'S UP TO *ME*.

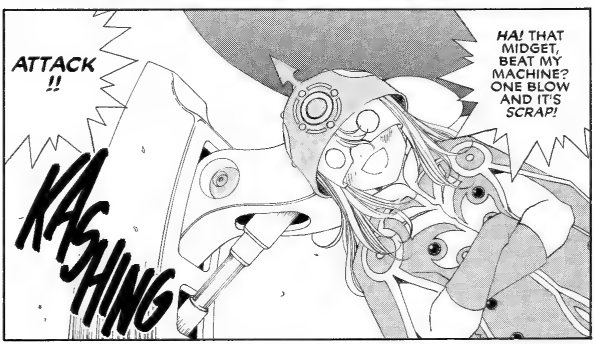
AH, BUT YOU FORGET... I DIDN'T COME HERE ALONE!
BUT WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO *DO*? YOU'RE OUT OF BOMBS...
NO, I'VE GOT...
THMP

...BANPEI WITH ME!!
WHAT'S SO LAME ABOUT BANPEI?
COULD YOU GET ANY MORE LAME ...?
pffftt EXCUSE ME...?
...

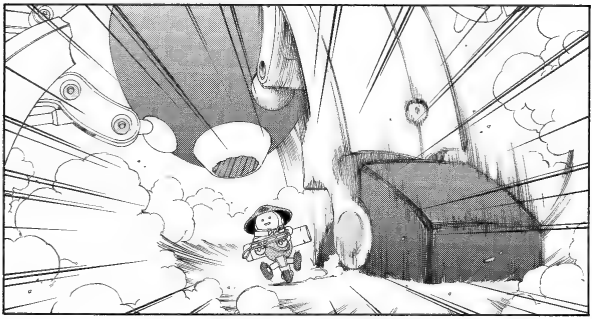
OKAY, WHERE SHALL I START...
...IT'S TINY, YOU NAMED IT, AND...
...YOURS DON'T HAVE NAMES ...?
NAMING A MACHINE THAT'S ONLY GOING TO BREAK...
...IS UTTERLY INEFFICIENT... NOT TO MENTION AN ACT DEVOID OF BEAUTY.
YOU KNOW, I THOUGHT YOUR MACHINE WAS MISSING SOME-THING.
AND NOW I KNOW.


THEN YOU MUST ASSUME ALL ALONG THEY *WILL* BREAK.
SO YOU DON'T NAME YOUR MACHINES BECAUSE THEY'RE GOING TO BREAK...?
IT'S MISSING A *SOUL.*

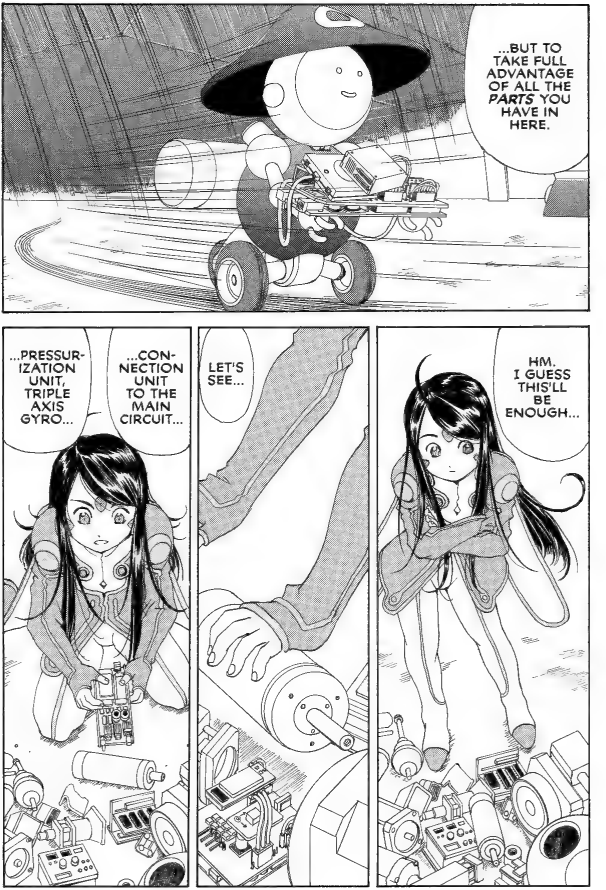
..BANPEI, FORWARD!!
SO LET ME HELP YOU BE RIGHT AGAIN!
VRRRNNN


ATTACK !!
HA! THAT MIDGET, BEAT MY MACHINE? ONE BLOW AND IT'S SCRAP!
KASHING

...NOT VERY *ACCURATE*, IS IT...?
YOU MISUNDERSTAND ITS *METHOD*. IT'S BRACKETING THE TARGET...
...AND NARROWING DOWN ITS POSSIBLE ***LOCATIONS***.



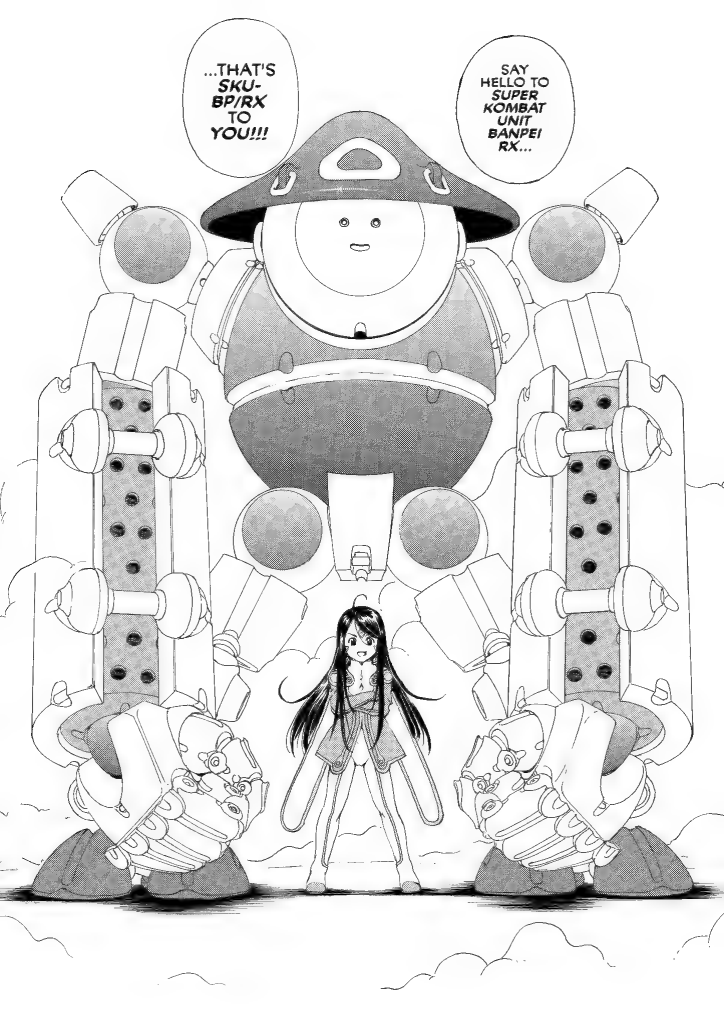
VERY CLOSE NOW. LOOK. IT'S ALMOST OVER...
AND I THINK *YOU* MISUNDERSTAND *MY* METHOD.
I DIDN'T SEND BANPEI TO FIGHT AS *IS*...


...BUT TO TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF ALL THE *PARTS* YOU HAVE IN HERE.
...PRESSURIZATION UNIT, TRIPLE AXIS GYRO...
...CONNECTION UNIT TO THE MAIN CIRCUIT...
LET'S SEE...
HM. I GUESS THIS'LL BE ENOUGH...

PRRHHRR
STOP HER CHANT-ING!!
ALUMINUM ALLOY FOR ARMOR PLATES...
...ARAMID FIBER...
VWEEEEEEEEEN

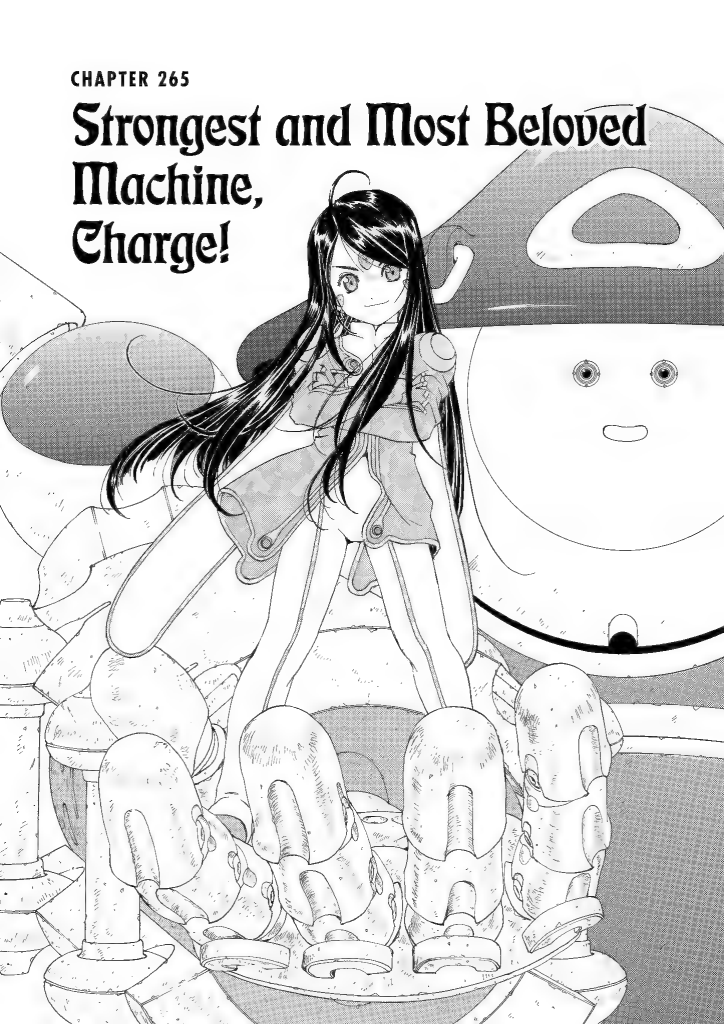
...GO !!
BANPEI DOCK-ING...
STOP HER, I SAY ...!
STOP HER!
I'M JUST GIVING YOU MY TECH TALK... NOT A SPELL!
CHANT?
KWPIING

GONGONG
GASHINGG

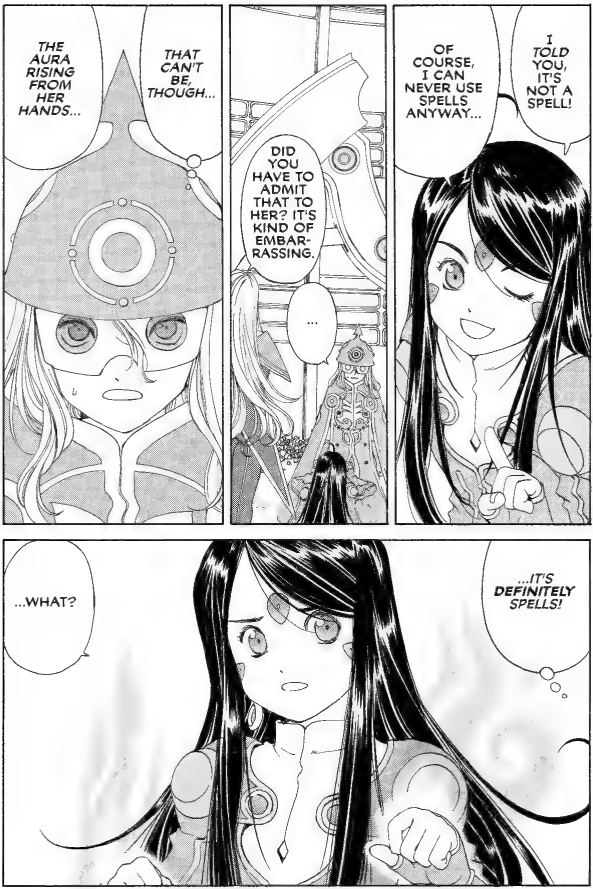

...THAT'S SKU-BP/RX TO YOU!!!
SAY HELLO TO SUPER KOMBAT UNIT BANPEI RX...

CHAPTER 265

Strongest and Most Beloved Machine, Charge!

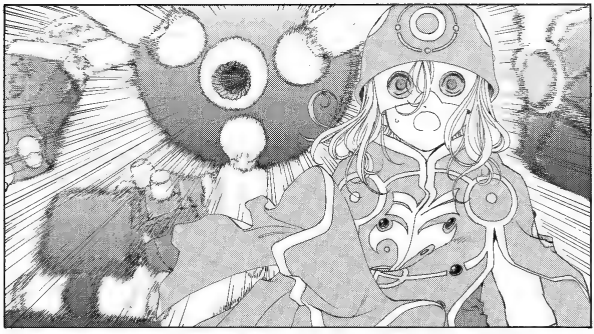


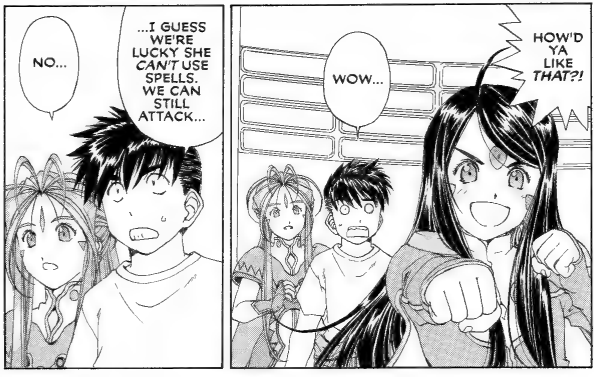
AND SO...!
PREPARE FOR BATTLE...
IMPOSSIBLE! YOU CAN'T BE USING SPELLS!


THE AURA RISING FROM HER HANDS...
THAT CAN'T BE, THOUGH...
DID YOU HAVE TO ADMIT THAT TO HER? IT'S KIND OF EMBARRASSING.
...
OF COURSE, I CAN NEVER USE SPELLS ANYWAY...
I TOLD YOU, IT'S NOT A SPELL!
...WHAT?
...IT'S DEFINITELY SPELLS!

HUH? I DIDN'T SAY ANY-THING.
YEAH, I *KNOW* I'M A HALF-BAKED GODDESS THAT CAN'T USE SPELLS! WHAT *ABOUT* IT?!
WELL, I'LL SHOW YOU!
EEEK! NOW I'M BEING PITIED BY *DEMONS!!*
BANPEI!
GIGA-TON...
GWIINNG

...PUNCH
!!




NO...
...I GUESS WE'RE LUCKY SHE CAN'T USE SPELLS. WE CAN STILL ATTACK...
WOW...
HOW'D YA LIKE THAT?!

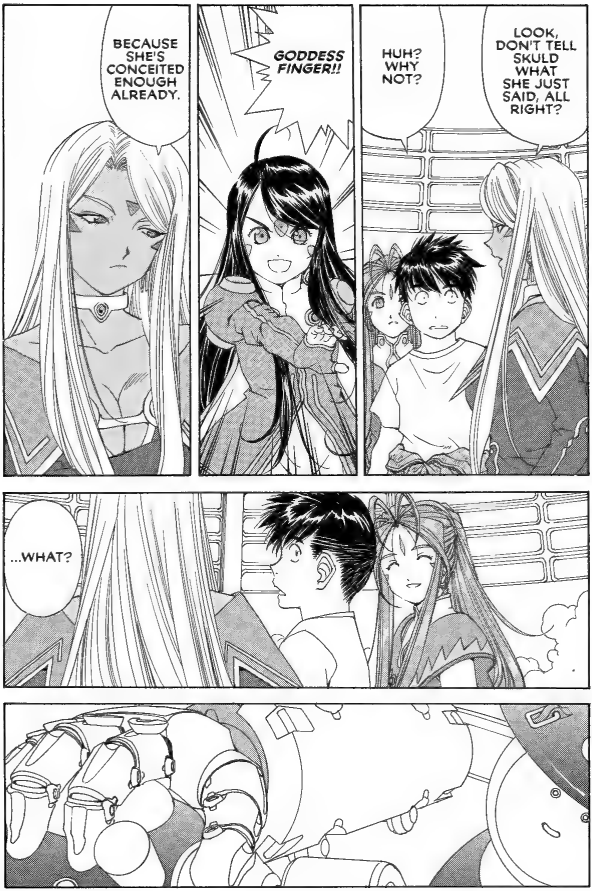
YES, HER MACHINE BUILDING IS *ITSELF* A SPELL.
A *SPELL?!*
...IT'S THE SAME WAY SHE CONTROLS BANPEI.
SKULD'S SPELLS DO NOT CALL SPIRITS, BUT WORK *DIRECTLY* UPON HER OBJECTIVE...
...A *DIRECT INFLUENCE* SPELL.
...THAT *WAS* A SPELL.
SKULD DOESN'T *NEED* TO ACTIVATE HER MAGIC.

GET UP!!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING ...?!
...KICK !!
THUNDER ...!
...BOLT ...!
VEEEEEN

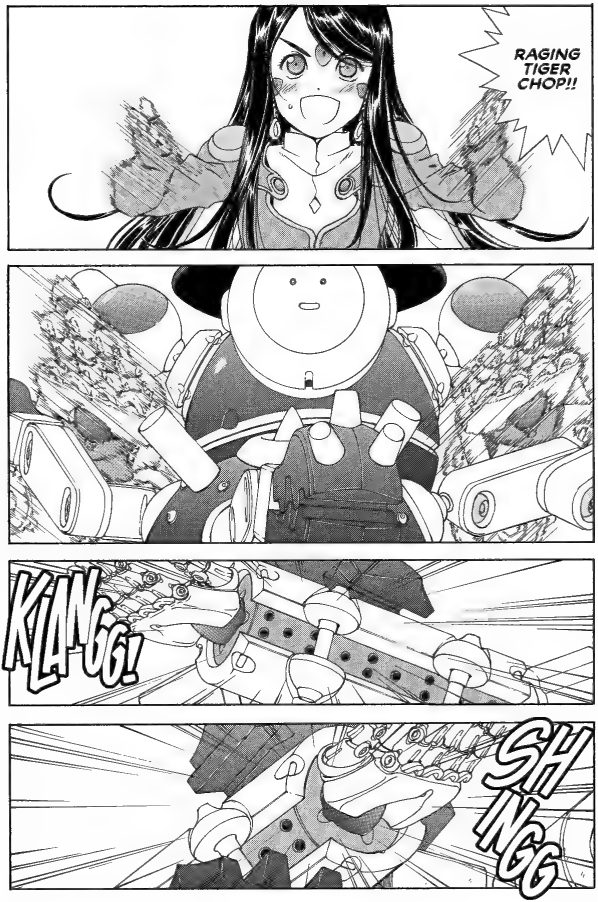
GONGG

SKULD'S BEEN ABLE TO USE MAGIC ALL ALONG.
I DON'T UNDER-STAND...
AND SO SHE *AMPLIFIES* IT THROUGH HER CLEVER MACHINES.
THE PROBLEM ISN'T THAT SHE HAS NO MAGIC, BUT THAT HER POWER CAPACITY IS SMALL.
THE SPELLS *SHE* HAS ARE ***CONSTANTLY ACTIVE.***

SKULD IS THE GODDESS OF THE FUTURE...
...THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT SHE'LL BE CAPABLE OF ON HER OWN WHEN SHE GROWS UP.


BECAUSE SHE'S CONCEITED ENOUGH ALREADY.
GODDESS FINGER!!
HUH? WHY NOT?
LOOK, DON'T TELL SKULD WHAT SHE JUST SAID, ALL RIGHT?
...WHAT?

I WAS JUST THINKING ABOUT HOW MUCH YOU LOVE YOUR LITTLE SISTER, URD.
NOT *AGAIN*. STOP THAT...
YOU WANT TO MAKE SURE SHE HAS A BRIGHT FUTURE, DON'T YOU?
...ONE THAT'S LESS STUCK UP, ANYWAY.


RAGING TIGER CHOP!!
KLANGG!
SHINGG

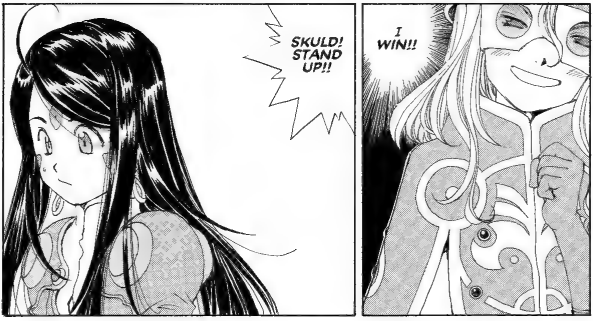
I THINK I'VE CAUGHT YOUR DESIGN FLAW. YOUR MACHINE HAS *TWO* ARMS...
...MINE HAS *THREE*.

UM...!
WHICH MEANS I'VE STILL GOT...
...ONE FREE.
CHAKK
Whrrrrrrr
WRRRN

SKKRLING!!
STOP IT!!

FOR I AM RELENT-LESS...
...IF IT'S A *MACHINE* WAR... VICTORY IS MINE.
I MUST CONFESS... YOU HAD ME WORRIED A MOMENT.
BUT SPELLS OR *NO* SPELLS...
...AND I WILL GRIND YOU DOWN TO *NOTHING.*

HE WON'T LAST...!
SKREEE
THIS IS BAD!! THE DRILL'S GOING THROUGH BANPEI'S ARMOR!
...ITS CEMENTED CARBIDE TIP.
AFTER ALL, ALUMINUM ALLOY IS LIKE PAPER BEFORE...
WELL, I WOULDN'T HAVE RECOMMENDED YOU USE MY SCRAP TO REINFORCE IT.
SKREEEE
VVVMMMMM


SKULD! STAND UP!!
I WIN!!

SKREEE
BANPEI HASN'T FALLEN YET!!
HE STILL BELIEVES IN YOU!!
YOU MUST HONOR BANPEI'S TRUST...
...HE CAN ONLY GIVE IT ALL HE HAS...IF YOU DO THE SAME FOR HIM.
VVVMMMVVVMMM

URD...
SHE'S RIGHT. YOU'RE NOT MEANT TO STUMBLE HERE.
BELL-DANDY...
DON'T EMBARRASS YOUR OLDER SISTERS...
HOW CAN THE GODDESS OF THE FUTURE ACCEPT DEFEAT NOW?

WE'RE ALL FIGHTING ALONG-SIDE YOU, SKULD!
UH, ME, TOO, SORTA...
...AND DON'T *UNDER-ESTIMATE* US JUST BECAUSE WE CAN'T USE OUR SPELLS.

OKAY!
BUT WHAT'S SHE SUPPOSED TO *DO*?
GOSH, I DON'T KNOW!
SEE, I THOUGHT *YOU* HAD THE PLAN...

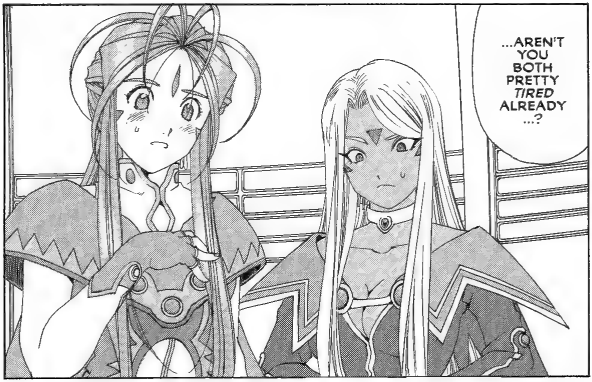
CHAPTER 266

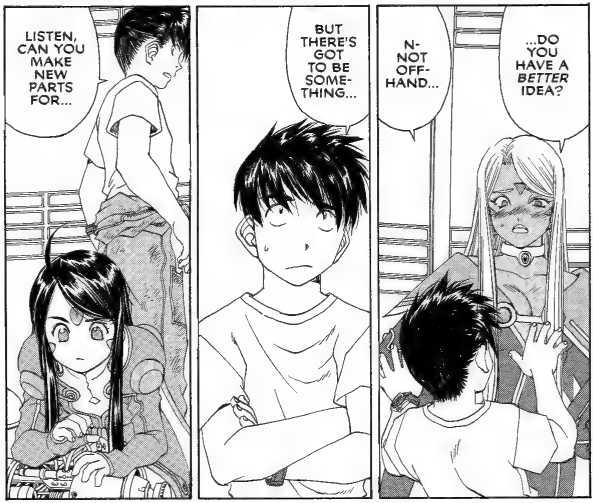
Counterattack Cut 'n' Grind

ALL RIGHT...
...LET'S GIVE IT A TRY!!
YOU CAME UP WITH A PLAN ALREADY?
...HEY, *WAIT!* GIVE *WHAT* A TRY?
WELL, ISN'T IT *OBVIOUS* ...?

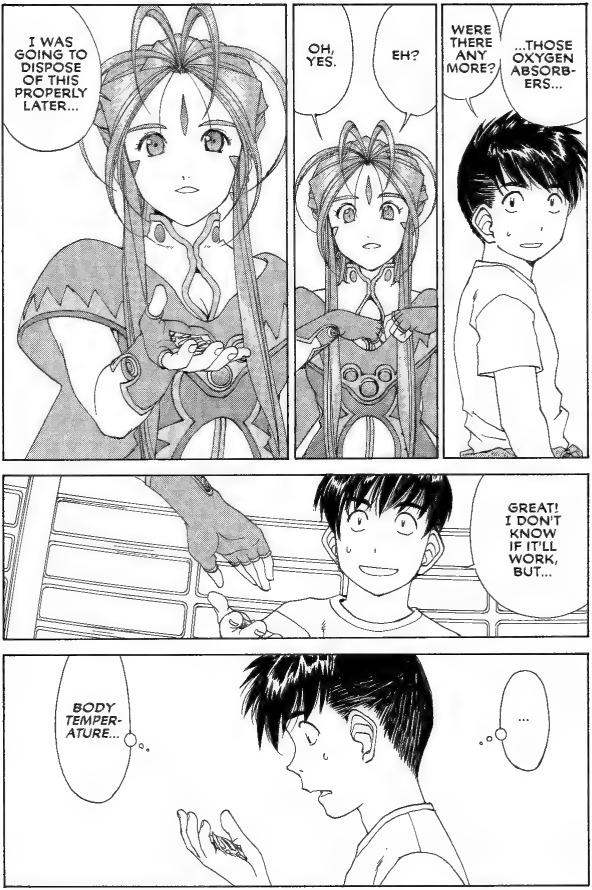
WE USE ALL OUR MIGHT... AND *CRUSH THE FOE!!*
YOU THINK THE SAME...?
IF WE CAST OUR *STRONGEST* SPELLS, *RAPID FIRE*...WE'LL BREAK THROUGH.
...I NOTICED A SLIGHT EFFECT.
LAST TIME, OUR SPELLS DIDN'T GET CANCELED OUT *COMPLETELY*...

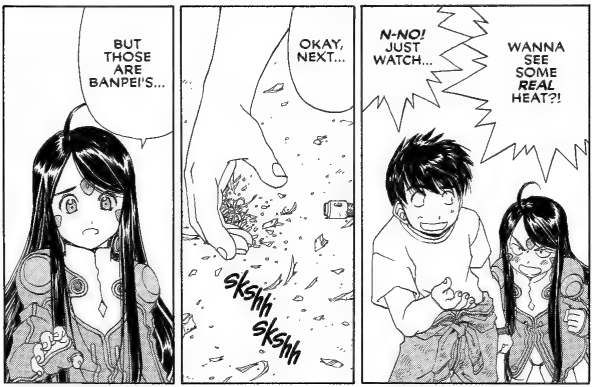
WHAT ABOUT THE *REST* OF THE JOURNEY ...?
WE DON'T EVEN KNOW IF THIS IS THE LAST DOOR WARDEN.
WAIT, WAIT, *WAIT!!*
IF WE CAN BUILD UP TO A CHAIN REACTION, WE--
YES.
YOU MAY NOT HAVE NOTICED IT BUT...
IF YOU BURN THROUGH ALL YOUR POWER HERE, WHAT THEN?

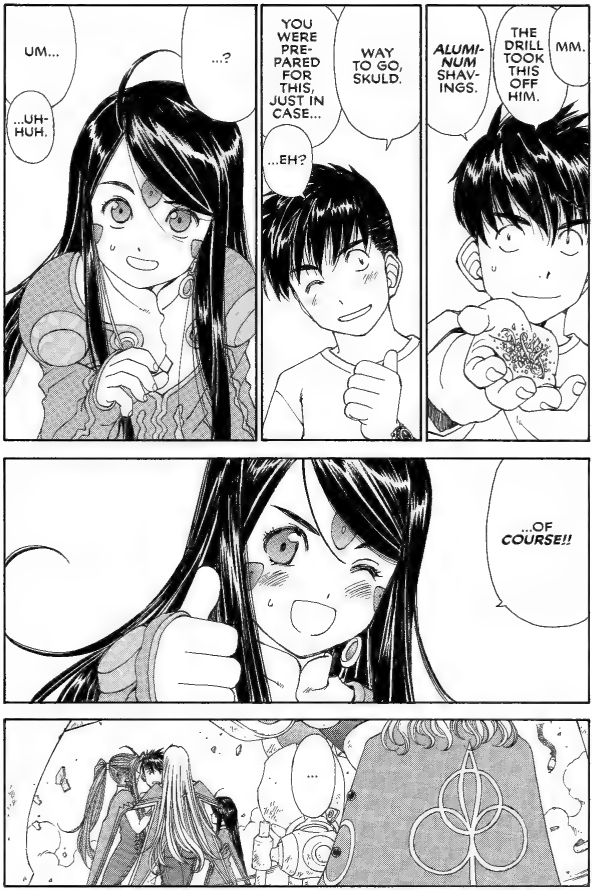

...AREN'T YOU BOTH PRETTY *TIRED* ALREADY ...?


LISTEN, CAN YOU MAKE NEW PARTS FOR...
BUT THERE'S GOT TO BE SOME-THING...
N-NOT OFF-HAND...
...DO YOU HAVE A *BETTER* IDEA?

AH, YOU'RE WAY AHEAD OF ME...
...BAN-PEI?
HUH ...?
YES, BUT...
CAN YOU SWAP THEM FOR THE DAMAGED ONES?
BELL-DANDY, WHEN YOU TIDIED UP FROM LUNCH...
IT'LL BE OKAY... I THINK.
...ALL IT CAN DO IS BUY A LITTLE TIME.
...THEY'RE NO STRONGER THAN THE ORIGINAL PARTS...


I WAS GOING TO DISPOSE OF THIS PROPERLY LATER...
OH, YES.
EH?
WERE THERE ANY MORE?
..THOSE OXYGEN ABSORB-ERS...
GREAT! I DON'T KNOW IF IT'LL WORK, BUT...
BODY TEMPER-ATURE...
...

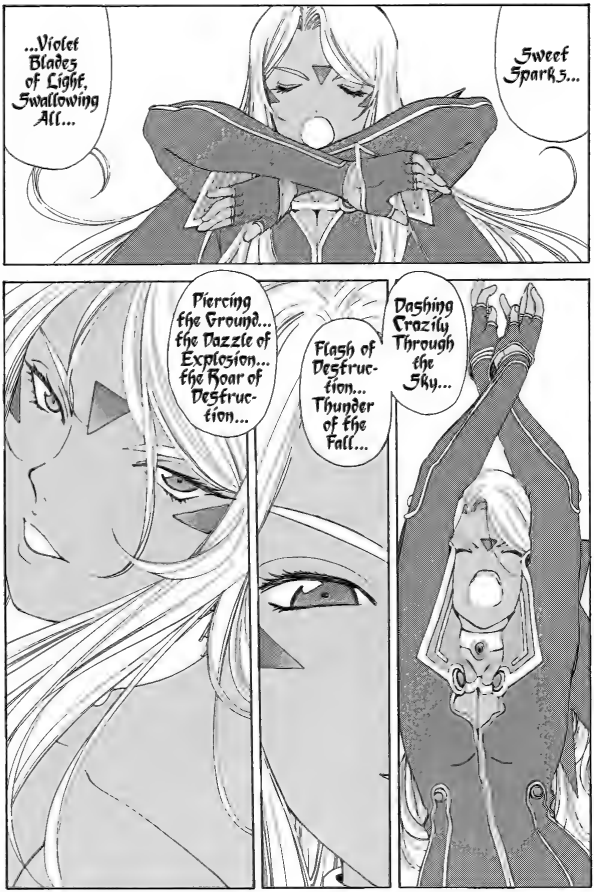

BUT THOSE ARE BANPEI'S...
OKAY, NEXT...
SKSHH SKSHH
N-NO! JUST WATCH...
WANNA SEE SOME REAL HEAT?!

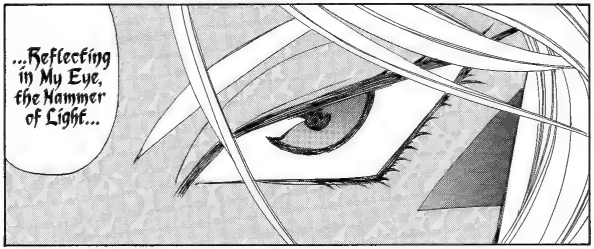

MM.
THE DRILL TOOK THIS OFF HIM.
ALUMI-NUM SHAV-INGS.
WAY TO GO, SKULD.
YOU WERE PRE-PARED FOR THIS, JUST IN CASE...
...EH?
...?
UM...
...UH-HUH.
...OF COURSE!!
...

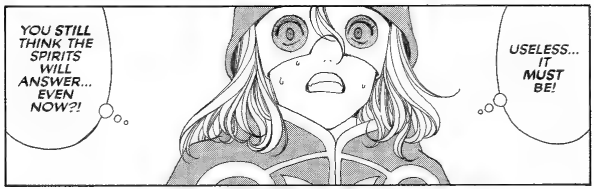
WHAT ARE THEY DOING?
UM, HEY! JUST TO UPDATE YOU...
...THE DRILL'S ALMOST THROUGH!

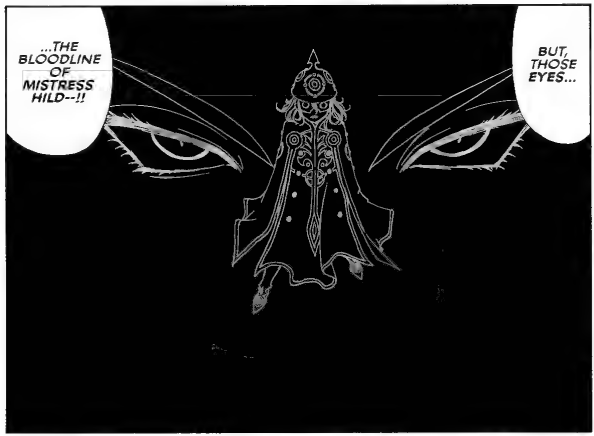
START THE MISSION !!
EH ?!

glitter
sparkle
twinkle
twinkle
NOW!!
URD!!
NOW, NORMALLY, THIS WOULD BLOW AWAY THE WHOLE ROOM...
HERE I COME!!


Sweet Sparks...
...Violet Blades of Light, Swallowing All...
Dashing Crazily Through the Sky...
Flash of Destruction... Thunder of the Fall...
Piercing the Ground... the Dazzle of Explosion... the Roar of Destruction...


...Reflecting in My Eye, the Hammer of Light...


YOU STILL THINK THE SPIRITS WILL ANSWER... EVEN NOW?!
USELESS... IT MUST BE!


...THE BLOODLINE OF MISTRESS HILD--!!
BUT, THOSE EYES...

Dance as I Wish!! Dance as thy Wish!!
Splash Apart Heaven and Earth! Violet Lightning Blade!

CHAPTER 267

Burst Free, Machine Heart!

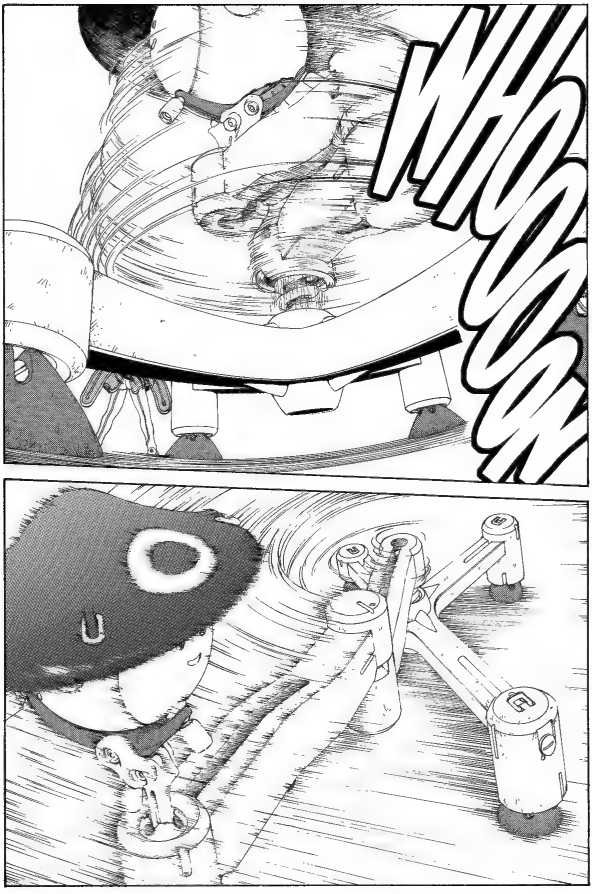
...VIOLET LIGHTNING BLADE!!

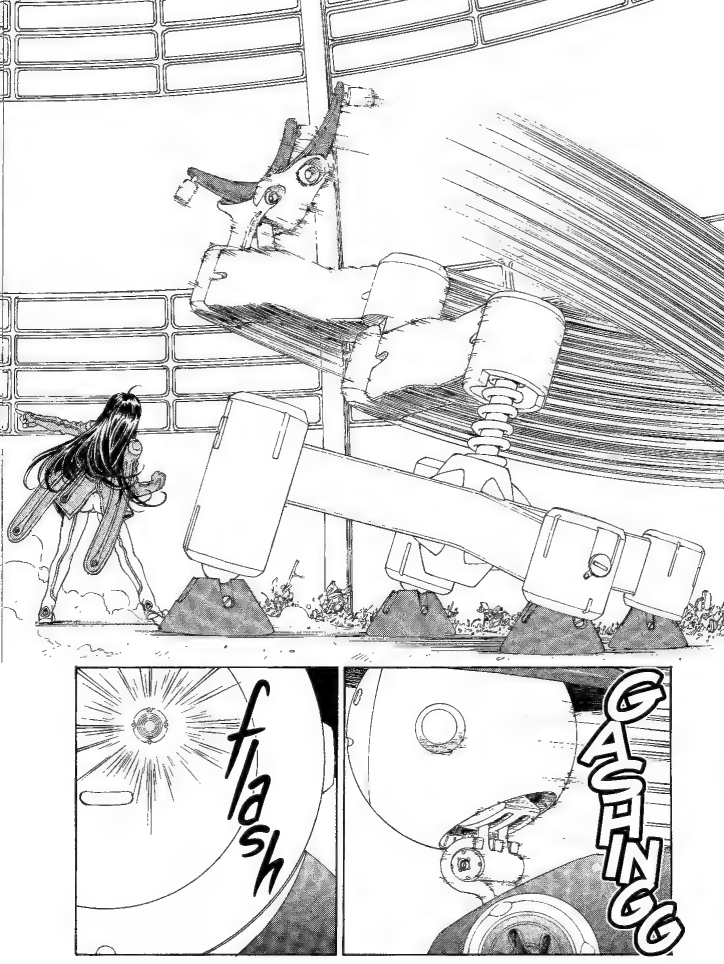
SKRE
SKRE-EE
BANPEI!! BOTH ARMS... PURGE!!
SO MUCH FOR YOUR SPELL...
HA... HA HA...!

WHIRRR
HE CAN DO THAT?!
BOOM!
BOOM!

HEAD PURGE !!
BAN-PE!!
BOMF!
WHIRRR

HE CAN DO *THAT*?!
BANPEI...
...HERE'S YOUR NEW *HEAD*!!


WHOOOM


flash
GASHINGG

VOOM

GA SHINGG!
GA SHINGG!
HE CAN'T DO THAT!!

!!
...HE'S IN HIS BODY.
I'M AFRAID YOU WERE DRILLING TOWARDS THE WRONG TARGET. BANPEI'S MAIN UNIT ISN'T IN HIS HEAD...
NEXT TIME, I AIM FOR THE BODY!!
WELL... THANKS FOR TELLING ME!
...AND GRAB HIS NEW ONES!!
RIGHT!! DROP THOSE OLD ARMS...!!

WHAT'S WRONG ?!
HUH?!
!!
VVMM
VVMM
VVMM
THAT POWDER ...?!
NO!!

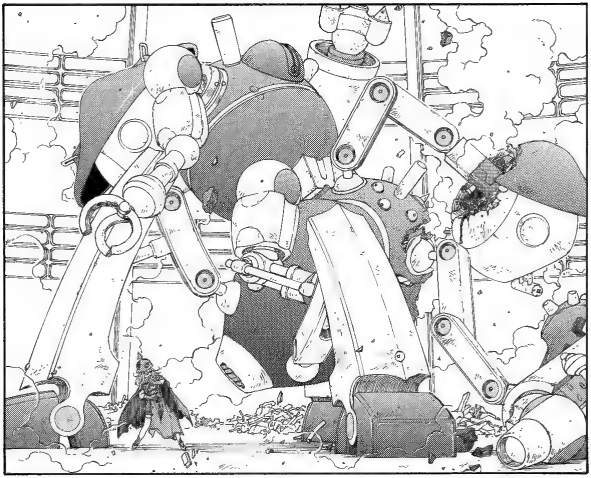
...MAKES FOR A LITTLE REDOX.
YUP. A PINCH OF THERMITE...
IT'S THE REACTION YOU SEE IN RUST, OR IN FIRE.
REDUCTION, AND OXIDATION.
AH...!
REDOX ...?
...AND THE IRON OXIDE FROM THIS DESSI-CANT.
LIKE COMBINING THE ALUMINUM SWARF FROM BANPEI...
OF COURSE, THERE'RE OTHER WAYS TO GENERATE HEAT...

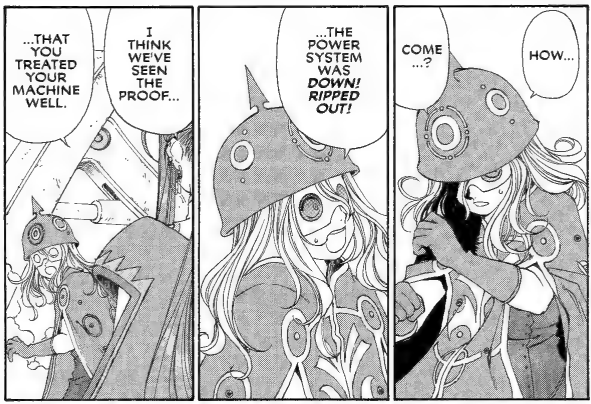
MIX ALUMINUM AND IRON OXIDE...
...THEN ADD THE ENERGY FROM URD'S BOLT TO START THE REACTION...
...AND THE MIXTURE GIVES OFF 2000°C OF CONCENTRATED HEAT.
$Fe_2O_3+2Al \rightarrow Al_2O_3+2Fe$
THEY'RE WELDED TOGETHER?!
BINGO!!
YOUR ROBOT CAN'T GRAB ANYTHING ANYMORE!!

READY?!
OKAY, BANPEI!
SPRING ...!!
BIG ...!

NO! THE CONTROL SYSTEM'S TRASHED
...PUNCH !!

...TO PUT UP A BARRIER!
TOO LATE...



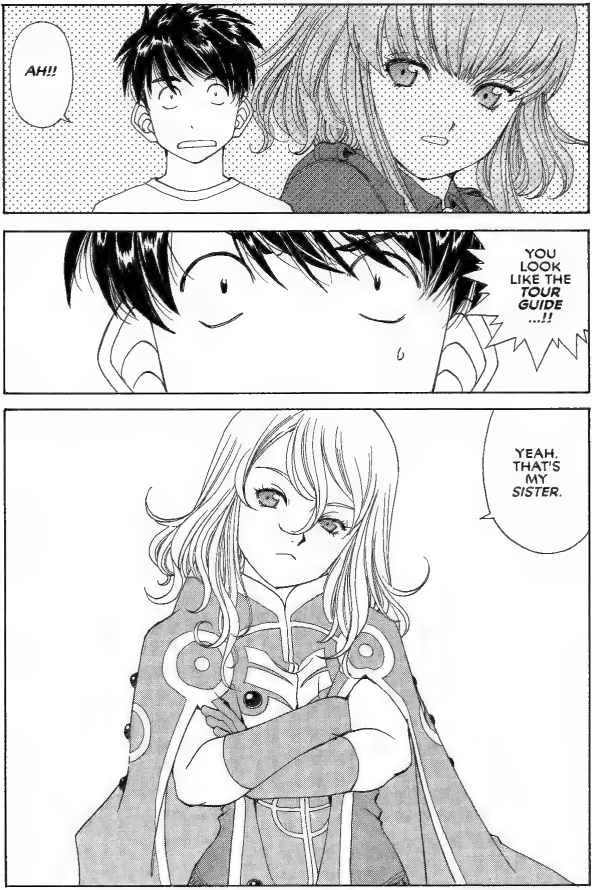

HOW...
COME ...?
...THE POWER SYSTEM WAS *DOWN! RIPPED OUT!*
I THINK WE'VE SEEN THE PROOF...
...THAT YOU TREATED YOUR MACHINE WELL.

...LOVE?
...
THAT YOU MADE IT WITH *LOVE*.
I DON'T LOVE *ANY-THING!!*
DON'T MAKE ME *LAUGH !!*
I DID ALL I COULD TO DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN IT...THAT'S *ALL!*
I JUST WANTED TO MAXIMIZE ITS *FUNCTION-ALITY* ...!!

IN OTHER WORDS... WITH LOVE.
THIS CAN'T BE... HOW CAN A MACHINE HAVE A SOUL...
THE MACHINE YOU MADE...
...WAS AN ASSEM-BLAGE OF SMALLER MACHINES.

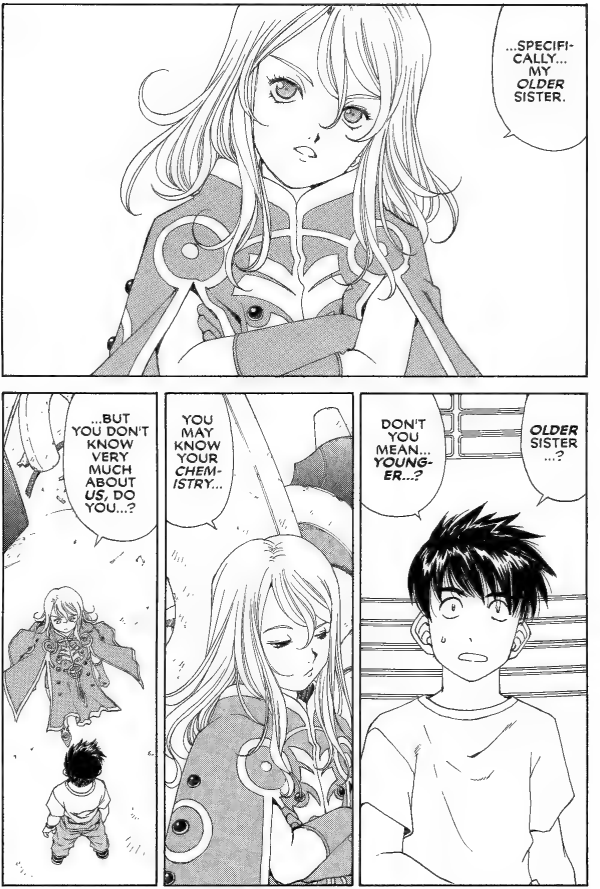
IN ORDER TO EXECUTE THEIR COMMAND TO PROTECT YOU...
...THEY MAY HAVE CREATED AN EMERGENCY BYPASS CIRCUIT ON THEIR OWN.
ANYWAY. THEY WERE GOOD MACHINES...
...I STILL HATE YOU, THOUGH.
sigh

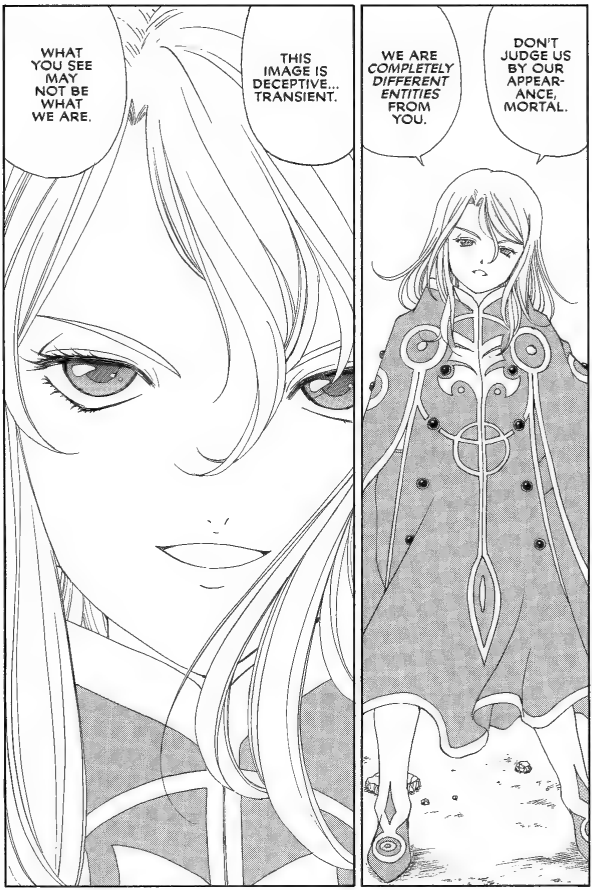
...LOSE.
I...
YOU SHALL TAKE THIS.
...HAVEN'T WE MET BEFORE ...?
SAY...

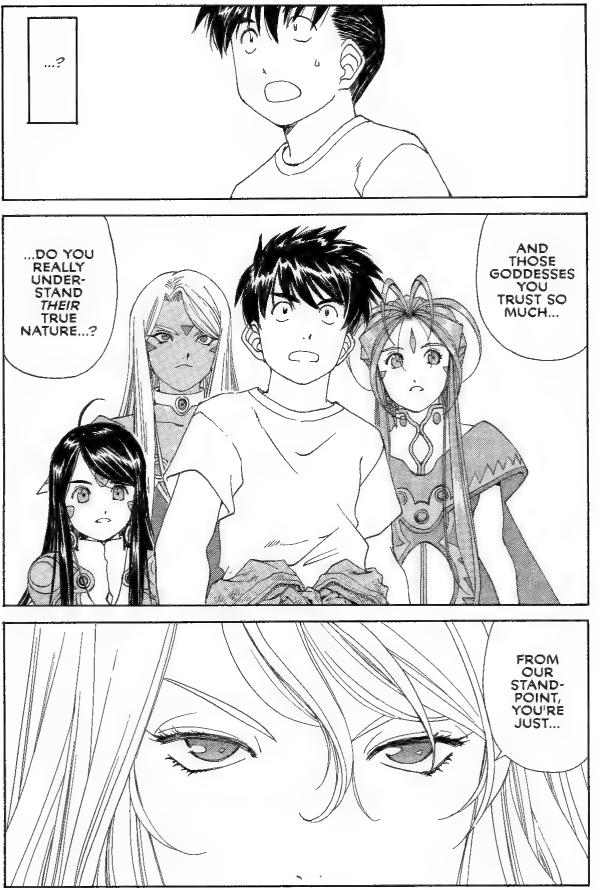

AH!!
YOU LOOK LIKE THE TOUR GUIDE ...!!
YEAH. THAT'S MY SISTER.

CHAPTER 268

A Test of Resolve


...SPECIFICALLY... MY *OLDER* SISTER.
OLDER SISTER ...?
DON'T YOU MEAN... *YOUNGER...?*
YOU MAY KNOW YOUR *CHEMISTRY*...
...BUT YOU DON'T KNOW VERY MUCH ABOUT *US*, DO YOU...?


WHAT YOU SEE MAY NOT BE WHAT WE ARE.
THIS IMAGE IS DECEPTIVE... TRANSIENT.
WE ARE *COMPLETELY DIFFERENT ENTITIES* FROM YOU.
DON'T JUDGE US BY OUR APPEAR-ANCE, MORTAL.


...?
...DO YOU REALLY UNDER-STAND *THEIR* TRUE NATURE...?
AND THOSE GODDESSES YOU TRUST SO MUCH...
FROM OUR STAND-POINT, YOU'RE JUST...

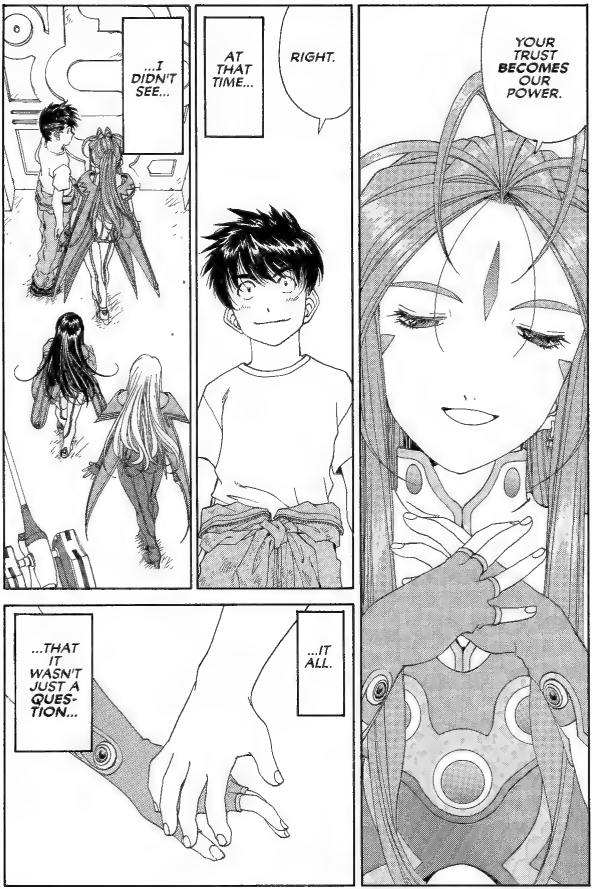
HA HA HA!
HA...
STOP THIS RIGHT NOW.
SHE'S...

...SERIOUS.
...I MEAN, HEH HEH HEH! JUST A LITTLE SIDESHOW ENTER-TAINMENT THERE.
DON'T GET SO WORKED UP...

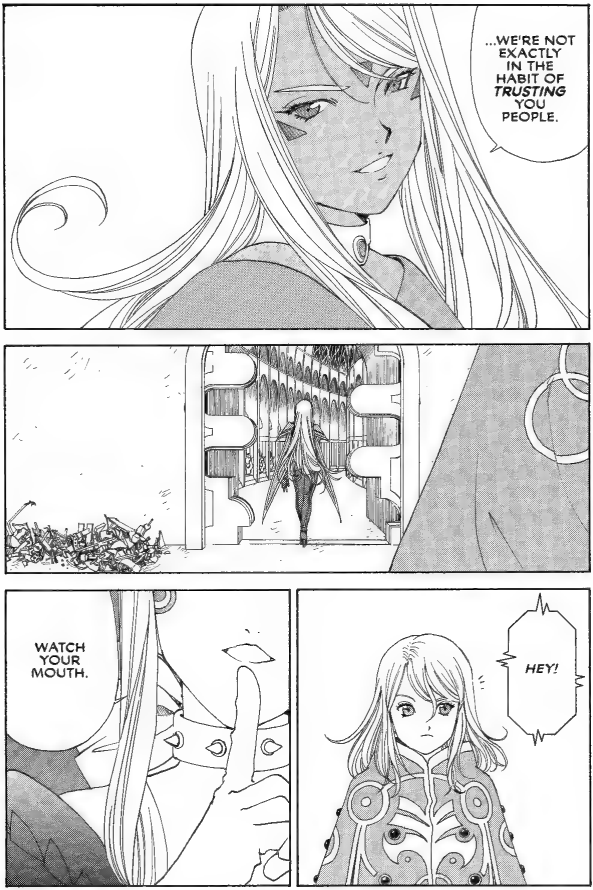
KEIICHI !!
ARE YOU... ALL RIGHT ...?
OH... BELL-DANDY.
AH ...?

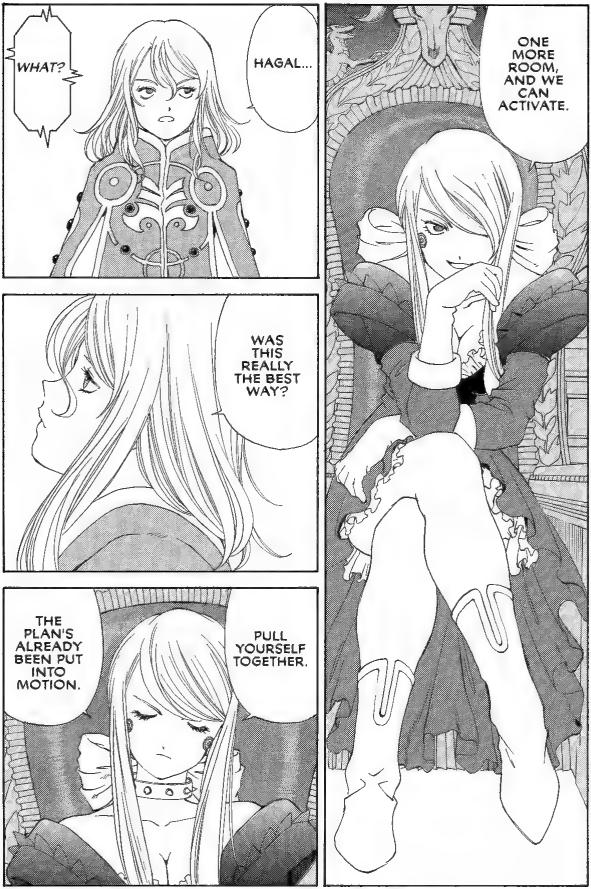
THEY'RE NOT HUMAN...
twitch

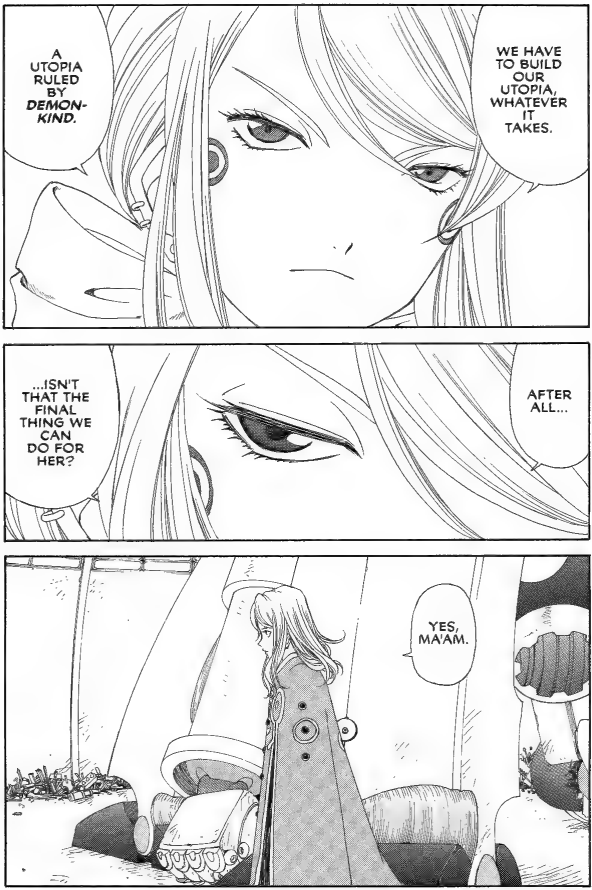
NO, NO, IT'S BETTER THIS WAY.
...IT'S NOT...!
AH...
...IT'S WHAT RESTRAINS US.
PLEASE ALWAYS FEAR OUR POWER, KEIICHI...
...YOU NEED NEVER, AT ANY TIME, FEAR US.
BUT, KEIICHI...


...I DIDN'T SEE...
AT THAT TIME...
RIGHT.
YOUR TRUST BECOMES OUR POWER.
...THAT IT WASN'T JUST A QUES-TION...
...IT ALL.

...IT WAS A CHECK OF MY RESOLVE.
HEY.
DON'T BE FOOLED BY MY SISTER, EITHER.
OH, COME ON...

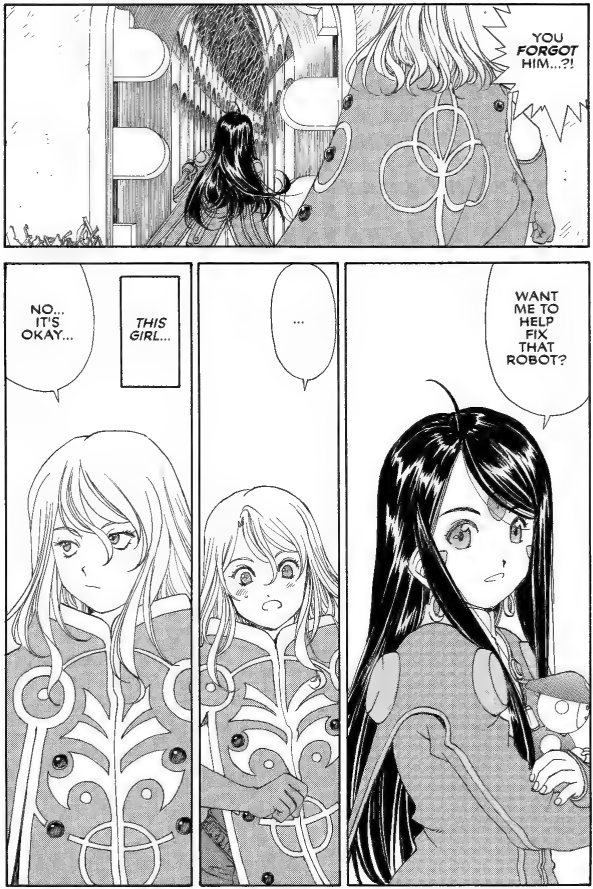

...WE'RE NOT EXACTLY IN THE HABIT OF *TRUSTING* YOU PEOPLE.
WATCH YOUR MOUTH.
HEY!


HAGAL...
WHAT?
ONE MORE ROOM, AND WE CAN ACTIVATE.
WAS THIS REALLY THE BEST WAY?
PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER.
THE PLAN'S ALREADY BEEN PUT INTO MOTION.

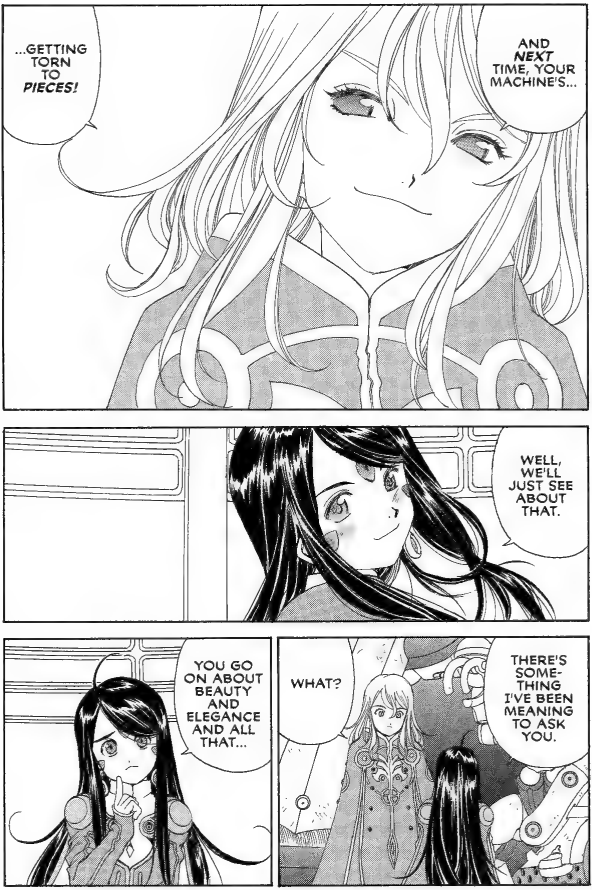

A UTOPIA RULED BY *DEMON-KIND.*
WE HAVE TO BUILD OUR UTOPIA, WHATEVER IT TAKES.
...ISN'T THAT THE FINAL THING WE CAN DO FOR HER?
AFTER ALL...
YES, MA'AM.

A PROGRAM TO PROTECT *ME?*
DID YOU DO THAT, TOO? FOR ME?
...WE CAN DO... DID SHE SAY?
"THE FINAL THING"...
...YOU KNOW I NEVER GAVE YOU ONE.

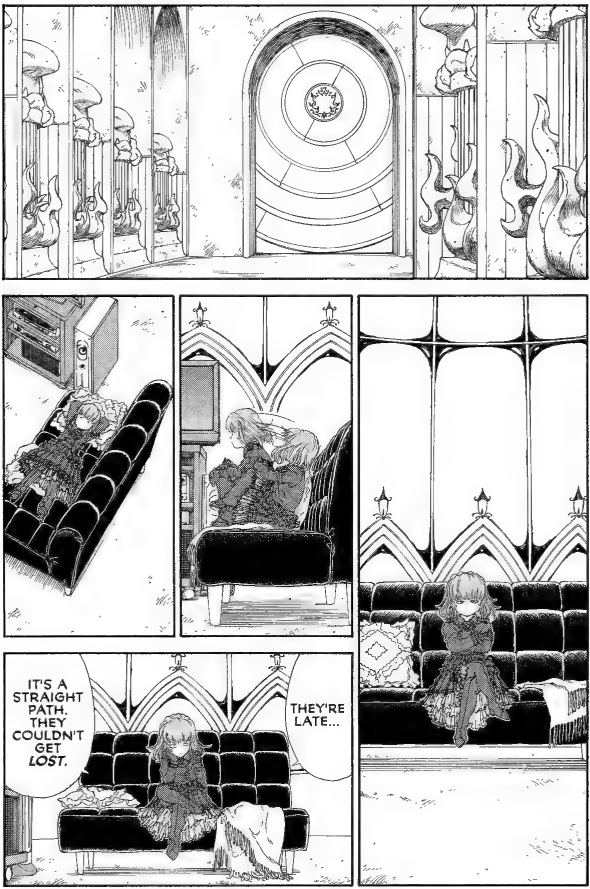
BANPEI! RELEASE ARMAMENTS!!
RETURN TO NORMAL MODE!
PSSHH
Veeen


YOU *FORGOT* HIM...?!
WANT ME TO HELP FIX THAT ROBOT?
...
THIS GIRL...
NO.. IT'S OKAY...

DON'T MISUNDER-STAND ME.
IT REALLY WAS A GOOD MACHINE.
SHUCKS.
OH...?
AND I'LL MAKE IT STRONGER.
I'M GOING TO FIX IT ON MY OWN.


...GETTING TORN TO *PIECES!*
AND *NEXT* TIME, YOUR MACHINE'S...
WELL, WE'LL JUST SEE ABOUT THAT.
YOU GO ON ABOUT BEAUTY AND ELEGANCE AND ALL THAT...
WHAT?
THERE'S SOME-THING I'VE BEEN MEANING TO ASK YOU.

THAT A RED OUTFIT IS THREE TIMES COOLER WITH A MASK AND HELMET...
WELL, MY SISTER TOLD ME THAT HER RESEARCH ON THE HUMAN WORLD ESTABLISHED...
...THAT DORKY MASK AND HELMET ...?
SO TELL ME, WHY DO YOU WEAR...
YEAH. PRETTY DORKY.
THEY ARE ?!
THEY'RE DORKY ?!
WAIT!! COME BACK HERE...
HEAR WHAT?!
KEIICH!! YOU GOTTA HEAR THIS--!!
HEY!!


IT'S A STRAIGHT PATH. THEY COULDN'T GET *LOST*.
THEY'RE LATE...

WHILE I'M WAIT-ING...
beep
...JUST ONE SONG...
...

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Carl Gustav Horn

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English-language version
produced by Dark Horse Comics

OH MY GODDESS! Vol. 42
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Welcome back! As you see, having completed our reissue of all the "old" volumes of *Oh My Goddess!* (volumes 1–20), we are continuing with the "new" (volumes 21 and up) at the same pace the new volumes were released before—every four months. Let's get into volume 42's Enchantress with a somewhat unusual series of letters—letters to and from a Japanese fan of *Oh My Goddess!* What's so unusual about that, you ask? He's a Japanese fan of the *English* version of *Oh My Goddess!*

Dear Mr. Horn,

Hello from Japan! My name is Syuntaro Yamaguchi, a Japanese high-school student. I was born in Hokkaido (just like Keiichi!).

I love *Oh My Goddess!* so much. So, I have all the *OMG!* Japanese manga editions so far. Half a year ago, I found that it was released in US and translated into English. I thought, "Really? I want to buy!" So, I bought vols. 31 to 38.

The translation is very splendid! I couldn't use English. But I can use it now after reading English *OMG!* (A bit, really . . .) I want to thank you for all your hard work. Thank you. ^_^

I'll collect the rest of the *OMG!* manga English edition next time!

My thoughts are with you from Japan.

Sincerely,
Syuntaro Yamaguchi
(via e-mail)

Well, needless to say, I was very surprised and pleased to receive Yamaguchi-san's letter. But maybe I shouldn't have been too surprised. In the US you can find imported manga in Japanese in bookstores like Kinokuniya. But the Kinokuniya bookstores in Japan (and some other bookstores in Japan, too) have a section of English import books, including manga. In fact, when I visited the main Kinokuniya store in Shinjuku in 2010, I saw a bookcase with six or seven shelves of English-language manga.

One thing I was curious about was that Yamaguchi-san is a high-school student, so he was born after *Oh My Goddess!* started in Japan (back in 1988!). Since people in

Japan (naturally ^_^) have the most access to new manga and have so many choices as to what to read, how did Yamaguchi-san discover *Oh My Goddess!* . . . ? What did he think about the older volumes (since Fujishima-sensei's character style has changed several times over the years)? I e-mailed Yamaguchi-san, and here is his reply:

Horn-sama!

Thank you for your reply! I'm very happy. ^_^

You're right that the recent *chara* [Japanese for "character"—*ed.*] art style is different from the volumes of the 1980s and 1990s. But I love the old style too! I think Mr. Fujishima's artwork is always great!!

There are a variety of people who are *OMG!* fans in Japan. Some started with the manga, others with the anime OAVs, movie, or TV series. So, it isn't mostly fans from 1980s.

In my case, I knew *OMG!* from my favorite magazine two years ago. Its name is *MacFan*, and it is a popular Macintosh magazine in Japan. *MacFan* produces the "Macne" series of virtual singers, just like the Vocaloids (Hatsune Miku, etc.). One of these singers, called "Macne Coco," is my favorite, and her voice is sampled from Kikuko Inoue, Belldandy's voice actress in the Japanese *OMG!* anime. So that's how I got into *Oh My Goddess!*

By the way, how about your country? How many people are *OMG!* fans in the US? How did they know about *OMG!* . . . ?

I am looking forward to your reply.
Thank you,
Syuntaro Yamaguchi

I don't often get called *sama* (actually, the cotranslator of *Oh My Goddess!*, Dana Lewis, calls me that, but honestly, I should be calling her that). Well, what Yamaguchi-san says makes a lot of sense. Since 1988 in Japan, new fans have often discovered *Oh My Goddess!* through indirect routes—most importantly, of course, the anime. *OMG!* anime was released in Japan in 1993–94 (the original OAVs), 1998–99 (the *Adventures of the Mini-Goddesses* TV series), 2000 (the movie), 2005–06 (the TV series), 2007 (the OAVs *Fighting Wings*), and 2011 (the OAVs *Itsumo futari de*). So any time a new *OMG!* anime comes out, it's a chance for people to get into the manga, too—and I'm sure that's one reason to keep making the anime.

But of course, Yamaguchi-san's way of discovering *Oh My Goddess!* through software is even more modern. ^_^ Well, of course, if you wanted to get someone to sing for your program, it would be Belldandy—she's the expert!

I told Yamaguchi-san that the best way to understand the diversity of *Oh My Goddess!* fans in the English-speaking world was to read everybody's letters from previous volumes of *OMG!* As you know, you all come from different backgrounds and have your own stories to tell about why you love *OMG!* I also mentioned that

the Mac was important from the very beginning to US anime and manga fans. Back in the 1980s, I used a Mac in my high-school journalism class, where of course I wrote about anime for the student newspaper. ^_^ The first US anime fanzine with interior color, *ANIMAG*, was made on a Mac. Everybody at Viz Media and Dark Horse Comics uses Macs, too. Yamaguchi-san wrote back:

I didn't know *OMG!* was so popular in North America.

Manga and anime is very popular in Japan. But in fact, I didn't read manga before I knew of *OMG!* When I first read *Oh My Goddess!* I was surprised at how beautiful its story and artwork is. It touched my heart and changed my life. I really think *OMG!* is a wonderful story!

And I didn't know anime and manga fans in the US were fans of the Mac. Japanese fans aren't always Mac users. It's more popular here instead among animators, musicians, artists, scientists, etc.

I bought a MacBook Pro two years ago (and I'm writing you on this Mac now!). It's because I want to develop iPhone and iPad apps. So, I'm studying iOS programming. I want to develop apps someday!

As you know, Macne series is Mac-version Vocaloid (in fact, it is called "Macloid" in US and other countries). Let me introduce you to the characters. You can go to macne.net/character:

On the far left is Macne Coco Black, and standing next to her is Macne Coco White. Both *chara* sample the voice of Kikuko Inoue. Going toward the right, the other characters are Macne Petit, Macne Nana, Macne Papa, and Whisper Angel Sasayaki-san. Petit, Nana, and Sasayaki-san are all sampled from the voice of Haruna Ikezawa [she plays Momoka Nishizawa in *Sgt. Frog*—*ed.*]. Papa is sampled from the voice of Jooji Nakata [Alucard in *Hellsing* (!)—*ed.*].

Your fan,
Syuntaro Yamaguchi

I was somewhat surprised again to hear that Yamaguchi didn't read manga before he discovered *Oh My Goddess!* But of course, not everyone in Japan reads manga. When we consider the difference between American comic books, where twenty to thirty thousand copies is considered very good sales (despite the fact *The Avengers* is the biggest movie in America! ^_^"), and Japanese manga, where a top magazine like *Shonen Jump* can still sell two to three million copies, it may seem like manga readership is universal in Japan, when the truth is, it's much more common but not universal. After all, if there are three million people in Japan who buy *Shonen Jump* every week, that means there are 124 million who don't. Still, I would be very happy to see three million more American comics fans. 8D

Not that we don't appreciate the fans we have! And here's another of them:

I remember waiting patiently back in 2003 for *OMG!* to be rereleased in the original right-left reading format. At the time it was the new industry standard and I thought it best to wait. I had to wait a few years, but it was worth it.

As well as reading the new rereleased volumes for the first time, I started collecting volumes 21+ without reading them. I don't know how many dedicated fans there are out there that did the same, but somehow I overcame the temptation to read ahead. Back then I had worked out that the catch-up would hit in 2012. It seemed like a long way off, but nevertheless here we are! As I sit here typing this e-mail, I see my collection now spans all 40 volumes! I also notice something special, and that's how the colored spines from volumes 18-20 start blending in with the white spines that start from volume 21! It's a nice touch! :D

You guys at Dark Horse should pat yourselves on the back for the dedication, time, and love gone into not only producing the current releases but also the rereleases. Well done!

I thought I would also take this opportunity to ask why the volumes start to become very short after volume 20? I can't help noticing how thin volumes 33 and 40 are! Would this be on account of extra work Fujishima had on his plate during these times? Or was Kodansha (the Japanese publisher) restricting the number of allocated pages per chapter? I know I'm going to miss my volumes being as hefty as volumes 15–20! T_T

Keep up the good work!

Lan
(via e-mail)

Thank you, Lan! That blending of the spines between volumes 18–20 and 21 was the idea of Cary Grazzini, our director of print and development, working from Kat Larson's earlier cover designs. I made sure to let him know you noticed it!

I don't know for sure about the drop in page count in the second half of the series. My general impression is that Fujishima rarely misses doing a new chapter each month for *Afternoon* magazine, so it may be not so much that he's doing less, but that Kodansha wanted to put out the books at a faster pace, which means that each individual book has fewer chapters. Maybe it's part of a strategy to better hold reader interest in a series that, after all, has been running in Japan now for over twenty-three years (although as you see from Yamaguchi-san's letters above, it seems new people discover the series there, too)!

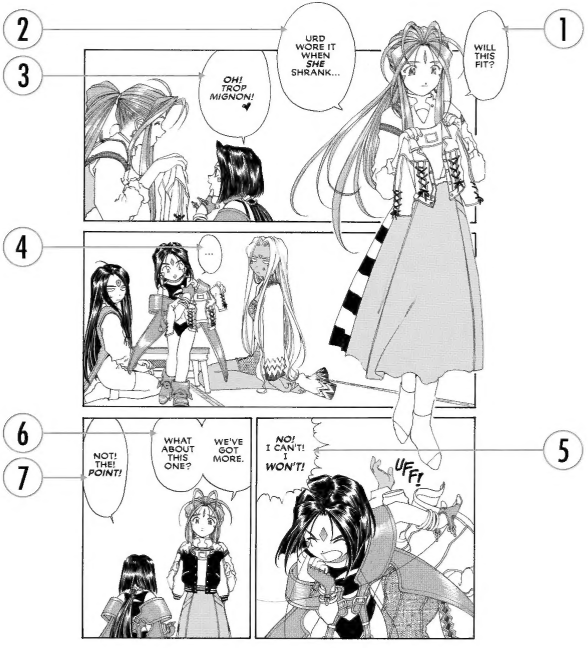
We'll see you again next time with *Oh My Goddess!* Volume 43—and as always, we'd like to see your letters here as well!

—CGH

P.S. I'm sure Yamaguchi-san knows this ^_^, but the joke on 162.3 is a refernce to Char, "The Red Comet" from Mobile Suit Gundam.

STOP! This is the back of the book!

This manga collection is translated into English, but arranged in right-to-left reading format to maintain the artwork's visual orientation as originally drawn and published in Japan. If you've never read comics this way before, take a look at the diagram below to give yourself an idea of how to go about it. Basically, you'll be starting in the upper right-hand corner, and will read each word balloon and panel moving right to left. It may take a little getting used to, but you should get the hang of it very quickly. Have fun! If this is the millionth manga you've read this way, never mind. ^_^



Oh My Goddess!

ああっ女神さまっ 42

MOKKURKALFI, HELL'S MISTRESS

of machines, is the next door warden Keiichi and the goddesses must pass. With her mechanical skills, she's the natural opponent of Skuld . . . but unlike her, Mokkurkalfi has no love for her inventions, instead setting them against each other viciously, to retain only those strongest in battle! Will so ruthless an approach to robots be the defeat of the youngest goddess . . . and of them all?

Winner of the thirty-third Kodansha Manga Award, *Oh My Goddess!* is the longest-running manga title in English!

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